

Thorne Bay School
ADVISORY SCHOOL COUNCIL Minutes

Special Meeting

Date: March 24, 2025

- I. Call to order: 6:32 pm
 - A. Pledge of Allegiance
 - B. Individuals present: Tony, Lucette and Nora Lovell, Amy & Shawn Jennings, Kat & Nick Reynolds, Shaine & Christy Nixon, Phillip & Anne Lusted, Terri Kohn, Brandy Prefontaine, Amanda Blankenship, Melissa Dougherty, Sonya Cook, Dee Sommerfeild, Steve Cunningham.
 - C. Individuals who submitted a vote in advance via text/ email.
 - 1. Sarah G - Chooses Calendar C
 - 2. Alex Hert - Chooses Calendar A
 - 3. Scott Randall - Chooses Calendar A
 - 4. Theresa Randall - Chooses Calendar A

ASC Task: Calendar Selection Process

- I. **Share Options: Distribute the three calendar options and comments to your ASC members for review.**
 - II. **Narrow Down: Within your school's ASC, discuss and narrow the options down to two.**
 - III. **Final Vote: Once you have two options, vote on one final calendar.**
 - IV. **Submit Vote: Submit your school's final vote to Chris Page-Haufe by Tuesday, March 25th.**
 - V. **Acknowledgment: A big thank you to the calendar committee for their dedication to prioritizing SISK students and families.**
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- VI. Calendar Vote (narrowing it down)-
 - A. Motion. Kat R. made a motion to remove Calendar A from choices.
 - B. Seconded: Anne L.
 - C. Any Discussion?
 - 1. Views in favor of Calendar A
 - a) Allows for ending the school year before June.
 - b) Provides an easy soft start to the academic year.
 - c) Gives more time before testing and reports that need to be provided to the state.
 - 2. Views in favor of the motion to remove calendar A
 - a) Pros
 - (1) Cultural Alignment:
 - (a) Aligning schedules with Alaska's subsistence culture allows students and staff to engage in August activities like fishing, foraging, and other outdoor traditions.
 - (b) August provides better weather, making it ideal for subsistence practices and outdoor activities.

- (c) Offers more opportunities for families involved in fishing or outdoor subsistence to maintain their livelihoods.

b) Cons

(1) Scheduling Challenges:

- (a) Teachers or paraprofessionals taking college courses may require substitutes for extended periods (e.g., a week or two).
- (b) Summer planning may be more convenient for staff but not for families who rely on consistent scheduling.

c) General Notes

- (1) Change is difficult and may require time and effort for everyone to adapt.
- (2) The overarching question is: What is best for our students?

D. All in Favor? 13

E. Any Opposed? 7

F. Motion Passed? (yes or no) YES

VII. Calendar Vote (final vote one calendar we choose)-

A. Motion. Anne L made a motion to approve Calendar C.

B. Seconded: Brandy P.

C. Any Discussion?

1. Pros and Cons Summary of Additional Comments

a) Pros.

- (1) Improved Attendance and Family Opportunities:
- (2) Starting after Labor Day can enhance attendance and allow families to spend more time together in August.
- (3) Cultural and Subsistence Life
- (4) Supports historical cultural subsistence practices, such as processing deer meat, berries, and fish from the summer to preserve for the year.
- (5) Provides time for participation in cultural camps held in neighboring communities during August.
- (6) Aligns with the schedules of those who fish or work in lodges, including both staff and students.
- (7) End-of-Year Learning Opportunities:
 - (a) Allows for hands-on learning experiences like STREAM week, swim lessons, survival classes, and other outdoor educational activities.
 - (b) Better weather in June would allow for more outdoor activities.

b) Cons

(1) Testing Schedule Concerns:

(2) Testing would occur just 2-3 weeks into the school year, leaving little time for review and preparation.

c) General Notes

(1) Preference for Calendar B: Some ASC members noted that Calendar B is more aligned with the current year, making it easier to maintain routines and providing a balance between Options A and C. Also stating that with Calendar A out of the choices now, their top choice would be B.

D. All in Favor? 12

E. Any Opposed? 8

F. Motion Passed? (yes or no) YES

II. Adjournment:

Adjourned at 6:07 pm.