



North Slope Borough School District Board of Education
829 Aivik St
Archie K. Brower Conference Room
Utqiagvik, AK

Unapproved Minutes
Regular Meeting
January 29, 2026
1:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND MOMENT OF SILENCE: Esther Evikana, President, called the Board of Education Regular Meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. at the Archie K. Brower Conference Room and over ZOOM Video Communications in Utqiagvik, Alaska.

WORDS OF WISDOM: Nancy Leavitt, Utqiagvik elder, and Fred Ipalook Elementary School 5th Grade students provided the words of wisdom to the Board of Education.

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

ROLL CALL:

Nora Jane Burns – Present

Rossmann Ferguson – Present

Nancy Rock – Present

Frieda Moore– Present

John Agiak, Student Rep: Present via Zoom

Qaiyaan Harcharek – Present via Zoom

Frieda Nageak- Present via Zoom

Esther Evikana – Present

Faith Brower, Student Rep: Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Nancy Rock MOVED to APPROVE the Agenda. Nora Jane Burns SECONDED the motion. Question called, no objections. The motion carried UNANIMOUSLY.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA includes: Combs Insurance Agency, Inc., Purchases Over 10K – Software Subscription Renewals, Resignations, SY2025-2026 New Hire Certificated Contract Issuance, SY2026-27 Administrator Rehire Contract Issuance, SY2026-27 Tenured and Non-Tenured Rehire Contract Issuance, SY2026-27 New Hire Certificated Contract Issuance.

Nancy Rock MOVED to APPROVE the Consent Agenda as presented. Rossmann Ferguson SECONDED the motion. Question called, no objections. The motion carried in a roll call vote of 7 yes, 0 no.

Nora Jane Burns – Yes

Rossmann Ferguson – Yes

Nancy Rock – Yes

Frieda Moore– Yes

John Agiak, Student Rep:

Qaiyaan Harcharek – Yes

Frieda Nageak- Yes

Esther Evikana – Yes

Faith Brower, Student Rep:

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS: District staff, District Principals and community members were recognized as present.

HIGHLIGHTED SCHOOL REPORT, FRED IPALOOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: Principal Betty Diana provided the Fred Ipalook Elementary report and recognized staff and students.

HIGHLIGHTED SCHOOL REPORT, MEADE RIVER SCHOOL: Principal Brian Schaffer provided the Meade River School report and recognized staff and students.

HIGHLIGHTED SCHOOL REPORT, NUIQSUT TRAPPER SCHOOL: Principal Joslyn Pierce provided the Trapper School report and recognized staff and students.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT is presented by Superintendent David Vadiveloo. This report is a collective summary of activity of all departments from the month of November and December.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT is presented by Director of Finance Megan Williams for the month ending December 31st, 2025 the following information is included: Revenues received as of December 2025 are approximately 78% of the budgeted projection; Approximately 51% of the general fund budget has been expended, while 50% of the Fiscal Year has elapsed (July-Dec); and, Cash in the general checking account as of December 31st, 2025, is \$48,714,671.

ENROLLMENT AND ATTENDANCE is presented by Caitlin Santos, Director of Curriculum & Instruction. The report provided enrollment and attendance by site in comparison to the previous school year’s student count and percentage of increase or decrease from the previous month and a year over year enrollment summary starting with 2020 and year over year attendance throughout the school year.

ALTMAN & ROGERS CONTRACT is presented by Director of Finance Megan Williams. The Board considered approval of a contract with Altman Rogers & Co. to conduct the FY26 annual financial and compliance audit, as required by Board policy and state regulations.

Frieda Moore MOVED that the NSBSD Board of Education approve the Audit Engagement with Altman Rodgers & Co. in an amount of \$103,000 for the FY26 Financial, State, and Federal Single Audit. Nora Jane Burns SECONDED the motion. Question called, no objections. The motion carried in a roll call vote of 7 yes, 0 no.

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| Nora Jane Burns – Yes | Qaiyaan Harcharek – Yes |
| Rossman Ferguson – Yes | Frieda Nageak- Yes |
| Nancy Rock – Yes | Esther Evikana – Yes |
| Frieda Moore– Yes | Faith Brower, Student Rep: |
| John Agiak, Student Rep: | |

DR. PAUSAURAQ JANA HARCHAREK is presented by Director of Inupiaq Education Tenna Pili. The Board considered an addendum to Dr. Pausauraq Jana Harcharek’s contract to continue providing consultation on Iñupiaq language, cultural initiatives, and district programs, supporting ongoing work aligned with the district’s strategic plan.

Frieda Moore MOVED that the NSBSD Board of Education approve the contract addendum for Dr. Pausauraq Jana Harcharek in an amount not to exceed \$63,200.00 as described in this memo. Rossman Ferguson SECONDED the motion. Question called, no objections. The motion carried in a roll call vote of 6 yes, 0 no. Board Member Harcharek abstained his vote as a conflict of interest with his immediate family member, his mother Jana Harcharek.

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| Nora Jane Burns – Yes | Qaiyaan Harcharek – Abstained |
| Rossman Ferguson – Yes | Frieda Nageak- Yes |
| Nancy Rock – Yes | Esther Evikana – Yes |
| Frieda Moore– Yes | Faith Brower, Student Rep: |
| John Agiak, Student Rep: | |

UNCIVILIZED FILMS is presented by Director of Inupiaq Education Tenna Pili. The Board considered approval for the Inupiaq Education Department to contract with Uncivilized Films to produce *History of the Inupiat: Navigating Currents*, a documentary supporting culturally relevant curriculum development for required high school courses. Superintendent Vadiveloo excused himself from the discussion as a conflict of interest with his immediate family member, his wife Rachel Nanjinaaq Edwardson.

Rossman Ferguson MOVED that the NSBSD Board of Education approve the above \$50,000 and greater proposal and related contract with Uncivilized Films in an amount not to exceed \$163,200, as described in this memo and related attachments. Nora Jane Burns SECONDED the motion. Question called, no objections. The motion carried in a roll call vote of 7 yes, 0 no.

Nora Jane Burns – Yes	Qaiyaan Harcharek – Yes
Rossman Ferguson – Yes	Frieda Nageak- Yes
Nancy Rock – Yes	Esther Evikana – Yes
Frieda Moore– Yes	Faith Brower, Student Rep:
John Agiak, Student Rep:	

INTELLA HOMES, LLC is presented by Jim Dube, Coordinator II Qatqiññaġvik Learning Center. The Board considered approval of a contract with IntellaHomes to implement a year-long construction trades program in which students will build a tiny home, supporting vocational education and addressing local housing needs.

Frieda Moore MOVED that the NSBSD Board of Education approve the above \$50,000 and greater proposal and related contract with Uncivilized Films in an amount not to exceed \$163,200, as described in this memo and related attachments. Nora Jane Burns SECONDED the motion. Question called, no objections. The motion carried in a roll call vote of 7 yes, 0 no.

Nora Jane Burns – Yes	Qaiyaan Harcharek – Yes
Rossman Ferguson – Yes	Frieda Nageak- Yes
Nancy Rock – Yes	Esther Evikana – Yes
Frieda Moore– Yes	Faith Brower, Student Rep:
John Agiak, Student Rep:	

SALARY INCREASE FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION PARAPROFESSIONALS AND SPECIAL EDUCATION INTENSIVE PARAPROFESSIONALS is presented by Michael Hautala Director of Student Services. The Board considered proposed salary range increases for Special Education paraprofessionals to address staffing shortages, improve recruitment and retention, and support the delivery of required student services.

Nancy Rock MOVED that the NSBSD Board of Education approve the Salary Increase for Special Education (SPED) and Special Education Intensive (SPED Intensive) Paraprofessionals as described in this memo. Rossman Ferguson SECONDED the motion. Question called, no objections. The motion carried in a roll call vote of 7 yes, 0 no.

Nora Jane Burns – Yes	Qaiyaan Harcharek – Yes
Rossman Ferguson – Yes	Frieda Nageak- Yes
Nancy Rock – Yes	Esther Evikana – Yes
Frieda Moore– Yes	Faith Brower, Student Rep:
John Agiak, Student Rep:	

INFORMATIONAL, AK SAFE FROM LIGHT SPEED: is presented by Michael Hautala, Director of Student Services. NSBSD announces the availability of the AKSafe app, a free tool that allows students, families, and staff to anonymously report concerns such as bullying, self-harm, or violence. The app enables secure two-way communication with school officials, allows submission of photos or videos, and provides access to crisis and support resources. The AKSafe app is designed to make it easier for stakeholders to report concerns, seek help, and contribute to safer school environments across the district.

INFORMATIONAL, SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT DESIGNATIONS/REPORT CARD TO THE PUBLIC: is presented by Dr. Caitlin Santos, Director of Curriculum & Instruction. Each year, the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) assigns school accountability designations as required under federal law. These designations, published in each school’s Report Card to the Public, are based on a statewide review through the System for School Success, which considers factors such as academic achievement, student growth, attendance, and graduation rates. The designations are not measures of school quality, but rather serve as a diagnostic tool to identify schools or student groups that may need additional support, monitoring, or intervention. They are determined through a statewide comparative model rather than a single performance benchmark. Provided in the report included historical designation data and individual school report cards for reference. These reports are publicly available on the DEED website and shared by each school.

INFORMATIONAL, 2026-2027 SCHOOL CALENDAR UPDATE: Is presented by Dr. Robert Bolen, Assistant Superintendent. Where the district provided the updated parameters regarding the calendar processes and dates including the winter & spring breaks for the community school advisory councils.

Board discussion regarded community townhalls, cultural calendar tool, calendar survey and timeline of calendar approval.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No public comments given.

SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS: Discussion regarded staff appreciation, event support and coordination, student participation, board materials, and post-secondary opportunities.

SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING: January 30, 2026, NSB Joint Meeting, February 17-18, 2026 Work Session & Regular Meeting Archie K. Brower Conference Room / Zoom Video Communications.

ADJOURNED AT 3:46 P.M. Frieda Moore MOVED to ADJOURN. Nora Jane Burns SECONDED the motion. The meeting stands adjourned.

Respectfully submitted for the April 15, 2026 Regular Meeting:

Marie Stackhouse, Board Secretary

Esther Evikana, Board President

Frieda Nageak, Board Clerk