



NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Ambler · Buckland · Deering · Kiana · Kivalina · Kobuk · Kotzebue · Noatak · Noorvik · Selawik · Shungnak
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NWABSD BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board Bylaw Worksession

Conducted via Teams and in the NWABSD Boardroom

Agenda

January 21, 2025

1. Roll Call
2. Items for Board Bylaw Review:
 - a. **BB 9020 Board Standards – NEW**
 - i. NEW—This model policy was adopted by AASB in 1992 and is new to the NWABSD. The NWABSD Board Policy Committee recommends reviewing it.
 - ii. This update further includes culturally responsive language.
 - iii. **E 9020 – Board Standards *NEW*** – Exhibit
 - b. **BB 9223 Board Vacancies**
 - i. This update includes updates from AASB from 2007.
 - ii. The bylaw is reviewed at the recommendation of the board.
 - c. **BB 9270 Conflict of Interest**
 - i. This update includes the word “immediate” before family.
 - d. **BB 9320 Meetings**
 - i. This update includes additional language to clarify that poll voting by a school board is not permitted and all official board action must be taken in an open meeting.
 - e. **BB 9322 Agenda Meetings/Materials**
 - i. This update clarifies that a board president and superintendent may reject community requests to place an item on the board agenda.
2. Recommendation of BB items to progress to First Reading at the February 2025 Regular Board Meeting

Technology Director: Amy Eakin

MISSION: To provide a learning environment that inspires and challenges students and employees to excel.
VISION: To graduate all students with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for a successful future.

BB 9020 BOARD STANDARDS

The School Board believes that it should hold itself to high standards of the Iñupiat Iliitqusiat, performance, accountability and conduct in order to meet the public trust that has bestowed by the public election of each member.

Therefore, the School Board has adopted the Board Standards established by the Association of Alaska School Boards, which provide a framework for effective school governance and keep the School Board's focus on cultural responsiveness and student achievement.

Regular efforts will be made to orient new board members to the board standards, provide on-going board development opportunities to assist all board members in meeting those standards, and assess board performance to measure the School Board's effectiveness in meeting them.

(cf. 9000 - Role of School Board and Members)

(cf. 9230 - Orientation)

(cf. 9240 - School Board Development)

(cf. 9400 - School Board Self-Evaluation)

Added 9/99

9/92 Adopted:

Northwest Arctic Borough School District

AASB Policy Reference Manual

E 9020 BOARD STANDARDS

The Board Standards developed by the Association of Alaska School Boards and listed below have been adopted by the Northwest Arctic Borough School District School Board as a standard of performance that this school board will constantly strive to meet.

VISION

The Board Creates A Shared Vision To Enhance Student Achievement

- 1.1 Board develops a dynamic shared vision for education that reflects student needs and community priorities.
- 1.2 Board keeps the district and community focused on educating students.
- 1.3 Board demonstrates its strong commitment to vision by using the shared vision to guide decision making.

STRUCTURE

The Board Provides A Structure That Supports The Vision

- 2.1 Board establishes a management system that results in effective decision making processes and enables all the people to help the district achieve its vision and make the best use of its resources.
- 2.2 Board ensures that long and short term plans are developed and annually revised through a process involving extensive participation, information gathering, research, and reflection.
- 2.3 Board sets high instructional standards based on the best available information about the knowledge and skills students will need in the future.
- 2.4 Board acts to ensure vision and structure comply with legal requirements.
- 2.5 Board encourages and supports innovative approaches to teaching, learning, and the continuous renewal of education.

ACCOUNTABILITY

The Board Measures District Performance Toward Accomplishing the Vision And Reports the Results To The Public.

3.1 Board receives regular reports on student progress and needs based on a variety of assessments to evaluate the quality and equity of the educational program.

3.2 Board evaluates the superintendent's ~~and board~~ performance annually and reports ~~the result a statement~~ to the public. The statement may include a possible contract extension, a change in salary, and goals.

3.3 Board evaluates the board performance biennially (every two years) and reports a statement to the public. The statement may include the resulting goals.

3.43 Board ensures long and short term plans are evaluated and revised with the needs of students in mind.

3.54 Board uses an understandable format to periodically report district performance to the public.

ADVOCACY

The Board Champions The Vision

4.1 Board leads in celebrating the achievements of students and accomplishments of others who contribute to education.

4.2 Board advocates for children and families and establishes strong relationships with parents and other mentors to help support students.

4.3 Board establishes partnerships with individuals, groups, and organizations to promote educational opportunities for all students.

4.4 Board promotes school board service as a meaningful way to make long term contributions to the local community and society.

4.5 The board is proactive in identifying and addressing issues that affect the education of students.

CONDUCT & ETHICS

The Board And Its Individual Members Conduct District Business In A Fair, Respectful, And Responsible Manner

5.1 Board and its individual members act in a manner that reflects the Iñupiat Ilitqusiat

- a. Knowledge of Family Tree
- b. Love for Children
- c. Avoid Conflict

- d. Knowledge of Language
- e. Cooperation
- f. Family Roles

g. Sharing
h. Hard Work
i. Responsibility to Tribe
j. Humor
k. Humility
l. Respect for Elders

m. Spirituality
n. Respect for Others
o. Respect for Nature
p. Domestic Skills
q. Hunter Success

5.2 Board and its individual members act in a manner that reflects service to the community on behalf of students.

5.32 Board demonstrates a commitment to continually improving teamwork, problem solving, and decision making skills through a conscious program of board development.

5.43 Expenditures for board activities are clearly identified in the budget, related to the district vision, and open to public scrutiny.

Adopted:

Northwest Arctic Borough School District

BB 9223 BOARD VACANCIES

Note: The following provisions apply to school boards pursuant to AS 14.08.045. Item 1 below could apply to a write-in candidate whose qualifications were not verified prior to election or to a district employee who fails to resign their employment after election.

The School Board may declare a regional school board seat vacant if the person elected:

1. fails to qualify for Board membership within 30 days of certification of the election,
2. refuses to take office,
3. resigns,
4. is convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude or a violation of the oath of office while serving as a School Board member,
5. no longer resides within the boundaries which he/she was elected to represent and a two-thirds vote of the Board declares the seat vacant.

(cf. 9220 - School Board Election)

Note: The following is provided for borough and city school boards and may be revised as appropriate.

The school board shall declare a vacancy on the Board for any actions which disqualify a member from service in accordance with state laws and local ordinances.

Note: A.S. 14.14.080 allows a school board to declare a board vacancy when a member fails to attend three consecutive regular board meetings without being excused by the Board President.

Three consecutive unexcused absences from regular board meetings shall be sufficient cause for the Board to declare a Board vacancy.

(cf. 9121 - President)

cf. 9320 - Meetings)

Appointment to the Board

Note: The following optional bylaws may be deleted or revised as desired.

A vacancy on the Board shall be filled within 30 days of the vacancy by Board appointment. When making an appointment to the Board, the Board desires to draw from the widest possible number of candidates.

The Board shall:

1. Advertise the vacancy in suitable local media.
2. Solicit applications or nominations of any legally qualified citizen interested in serving on the School Board.
- 1.3. Provide candidates with appropriate information regarding Board member responsibilities.
- 2.4. Announce names of candidates and accept public input either in writing or at a public meeting.
- 3.5. Interview the candidates at a public meeting.
- 4.6. Select the provisional appointee by majority vote at a public meeting.

The person appointed shall hold office until the next regularly scheduled election for district Board members and shall be afforded all the powers and duties of a Board member upon appointment.

Legal Reference:

ALASKA STATUTES

[14.08.041](#) *Regional school boards*

[14.08.045](#) *Vacancies*

[14.08.081](#) *Recall*

[14.12.070](#) *Vacancies*

[14.14.080](#) *Declaring a school board vacancy*

[29.26.240 - 29.26.360](#) *Recall*

Adoption Date: May 23, 1995

Revised:

Northwest Arctic Borough School District

BB 9270 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Note: [Alaska Statute 29.20.010](#) requires each municipality to adopt a conflict of interest code. [Alaska Statute 39.50.145](#) authorizes a municipality to exempt municipal officers from state conflict of interest financial reporting requirements. Accordingly, districts should consult local law to determine if additional conflict of interest requirements must be addressed. The following sample bylaw should be revised as appropriate to reflect district philosophy and needs.

In order to instill public confidence in public office and provide public accountability, School Board members shall disclose and avoid conflicts of interest involving any matter pending before the School Board. A conflict of interest exists when a member has a personal or financial interest on a matter coming before the Board that could render the member unable to devote complete loyalty and singleness of purpose to the public interest. School Board members owe the public a duty to act in the best interests of the district.

Decision making. The Board recognizes that when no conflict of interest requires abstention and/or recusal, its members must vote on issues before the Board. If a board member or their **immediate** family member may benefit personally or financially from a Board decision, that board member must provide full disclosure of the conflict or potential conflict of interest to the Board. The Board, without that member's participation, will then approve or disapprove of the member's deliberations and voting on the issue. If the Board determines a conflict of interest prohibits participation, the member shall recuse themselves and abstain from deliberations and voting.

Appearance of impropriety. When a situation may create the appearance of impropriety, even where state and federal laws do not require any action, the board member shall fully disclose the circumstances. The Board, without that member's participation, will then approve or disapprove of the member's deliberations and voting.

Board members who have an actual or potential conflict of interest requiring disclosure shall not seek to influence the decisions of staff or other board members on the underlying matter, or on the member's participation in the matter.

Other duties. School Board members are expected to avoid conflicts of interest in their other duties. This includes:

- a. **Confidential information.** School Board members shall not disclose or use confidential information acquired during the performance of official duties as a means to further their own personal or financial interests or the interests of a family member.
- b. **Gifts.** School Board members shall not accept a gift or economic benefit that would tend to improperly influence a reasonable person or where board members know or should know the gift is offered for the purpose of influencing or rewarding official action.

- c. **Business dealings with staff.** School Board members shall not engage in financial transactions for private business purposes with district staff whom board members directly or indirectly supervise.
- d. **Compensation for services.** School Board members shall not receive any compensation for services rendered to the district from any source, except compensation for serving on the School Board and reimbursement of expenses incurred as a board member, as allowed by policy and law.

Other legal obligations. School Board members shall comply with state and federal laws pertaining to conflicts of interest. Nothing in this policy restricts or affects board members' duties to comply with those laws.

(cf. 3115 - Relations with Vendors)

(cf. 4112.8 - Employment of Relatives)

(cf. 2300 - Conflict of Interest Code: Designated Personnel)

Legal Reference:

ALASKA STATUTES

[14.08.131](#) *Disqualification from voting for conflict of interest*

[14.14.140](#) *Restriction on employment*

[11.56.100 - 11.56.130](#) *Bribery and related offenses*

[29.20.010](#) *Conflict of interest*

ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

[4 AAC 18.031](#) *Employment of members of immediate families of school board members*

[4 AAC 18.900](#) *Definitions*

Adopted: May 23, 1995

Revised: August 30, 2016

Revised: June 6, 2023

Revised:

Northwest Arctic Borough School District

BB 9320 MEETINGS

Note: Alaska's Open Meetings Act A.S. 44.62.310-.312 requires meetings of the Board to be open to the public except as allowed by law and requires reasonable public notice of such meetings. 1994 revisions to the Act are reflected in this sample policy.

Meetings of the Board are conducted for the purpose of accomplishing district business. A meeting of the Board shall consist of any gathering of the members of the Board when more than three members of the Board, or a majority of the members, whichever is less, are present and collectively consider a matter upon which the Board is empowered to act. As a matter of district policy and state law, meetings ordinarily shall be open to the public. The Board may meet in closed sessions only to discuss certain matters as permitted or required by Alaska's Open Meetings Act. All business of the Board must be conducted at a duly convened meeting of the Board. Poll voting between meetings is not allowed. All meetings of the School Board shall be open to the public, except for executive sessions authorized in accordance with law.

(cf. 9321 - Executive Sessions)

Reasonable public notice shall be given for all meetings of the Board in accordance with law and district practice, and shall be posted at all regular district and school sites before the meeting. The Superintendent or designee shall provide reasonable public notice of open meetings of the Board. Such notice shall include the date, time and place of the meeting, and, if the meeting is by teleconference, the location of any teleconferencing facilities that will be used. shall be provided to the local news media and posted at district and school sites before the meeting. Public Meetings may not be held in a private home or private business.

(cf. 9012 - Communications To and From the Board)

(cf. 9322 - Agenda/Meeting Materials)

(cf. 9323 - Meeting Conduct)

Regular Meetings

The Board shall adopt a yearly calendar specifying the date, time and place of each regular meeting. The local media shall be provided with the annual calendar of regular Board meetings and shall be notified of any changes to the calendar.

Regular meetings shall be held on the last Tuesday of every month, unless otherwise determined by the Board. The meetings will convene at the appointed time, providing a quorum is present. Notice of regular meetings shall be posted at least five (5) days prior to the meeting.

Commented [AE1]: Model state: The Board shall hold ____ regular meetings each month. Unless changed by the Board, regular meetings shall be held at ____ p.m. at ____.

Continued Meetings

The Board, by official action, may recess a regular or special meeting and designate a future date for the purpose of continuing the consideration of one (1) or more topics, provided that:

the total number of days for the session, including all those added after recess, shall not exceed the statutory limitations of fifteen (15) days for a regular meeting and five (5) days for a special meeting;

public notification shall be made of the recess;

any absent members of the Board shall be notified of the recess.

Special Meetings

Special meetings of the Board may be called by the presiding officer or a majority of the Board members.

Except in cases of an emergency, notice of special meetings shall be ~~delivered provided~~ at least 24 hours before the meeting. ~~to all Board members, the Superintendent, and to the local media. This notice shall specify the date, time, place and, if the meeting is by teleconference, the location of any teleconferencing facilities that will be used. Such notice shall be given to all Board members, the superintendent and to the local news media.~~ This notice also shall be posted at district and school sites at least 24 hours before the meeting. ~~This notice shall specify the date, time and place of the meeting.~~

Notice of special meeting shall include a statement of the purpose of the meeting. No business may be transacted at this special meeting, other than that which is specifically stated in the notice of the meeting.

Emergency Special Meetings

The Board president or designee shall give notice of an emergency special meeting to the local media by telephone before the meeting. If telephone services are not functioning, the notice requirement is waived. In that event, As soon after the meeting as possiblepracticable, the Board shall notify the local media that the meeting was held and shall describe the purpose of the meeting and any action taken by the Board.

Board Action Between Meetings

~~When, in the opinion of the Superintendent, circumstances arise of such an urgent nature as to require Board action prior to the regular or special meetings, and the President of the Board, or in the President's unavailability, the Vice-President, concurs with this opinion, a poll vote by phone may be taken of Board members. In taking such a poll, the following conditions shall apply:~~

1. There shall be twenty-four (24) hours advance public notice of the poll vote given by public radio, unless the urgent matter prevents a twenty-four (24) hour delay of the vote. In such an event, at least three (3) hours advance notice shall be given by public radio;
2. The public notice will state the question being voted upon. In addition, the notice will advise the public of their right to be present at the time and place when the poll vote is being conducted by the Board's Recording Secretary;
3. The poll vote will be conducted by the Board's Recording Secretary in the Boardroom at the District Office. As many Board members as possible will be placed on a conference call that will be broadcast via speaker phone into the Boardroom. Board members who are not on the conference call shall be called individually and that phone call shall also be broadcast by speaker phone into the Boardroom;
4. The Board shall confirm the results of the poll vote by a vote taken at the next regular or special meeting.

Teleconferencing/Video-Conferencing

Recognizing the inherent responsibility and statutory duties of Board members, the Board strongly encourages Board members to attend and participate at meetings of the Board. Though great importance is given to the physical presence of Board members at meetings, the attendance and participation of members by teleconference is authorized whenever physical presence is not practicable. All votes at a meeting of members attending by teleconference shall be taken by roll call.

The Board also authorizes the use of teleconferences for Board meetings when receiving public comment or testimony, and during Board deliberations.

Whenever possible, meeting agendas and supporting materials shall be available at all teleconference facilities used for the Board meeting.

The Board may use teleconferences/and or video-conferences, if available, for Board meetings when receiving public comment or testimony and during Board deliberations. Agendas and supporting materials shall be available at conference locations.

Legal Reference:

ALASKA STATUTES

[14.08.091](#) *Administration*

[14.14.070](#) *Organization of school board*

[14.14.080](#) *Declaring a school board vacancy*

[29.20.020](#) *Meetings public*

[44.62.310](#) *Agency meetings public*

[44.62.312](#) *State policy regarding meetings*

~~*Revised: March 27, 2007*~~

Adoption Date: May 23, 1995

Revised: March 27, 2007

Revised:

Northwest Arctic Borough School District

BB 9322 AGENDA/MEETING MATERIALS

Construction of Agenda

The Superintendent, at the direction of the President of the Board, shall prepare all agendas for meetings of the Board.

(cf. 9121 - President)

All agendas shall include the meeting time and place and a description of each business item to be transacted or discussed. All agendas shall be posted for public review prior to the meeting.

(cf. 9320 - Meetings)

Note: [A.S. 29.20.020](#) requires governing bodies provide a reasonable opportunity for the public to be heard.

Any member of the public may request that a matter within the jurisdiction of the Board be placed on the agenda of a regular meeting. The request must be in writing and submitted to the Superintendent with supporting documents and information, if any, at least ten working days before the scheduled meeting date.

When constructing the agenda, the Board president and Superintendent will decide whether a request is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board and whether the agenda item is appropriate for discussion in open or executive session. The Board president and Superintendent have the discretion to carefully consider and decide whether to include public requests on the agenda.

The Board shall also give members of the public the opportunity to testify at regular meetings on matters which are not on the agenda but which are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. An agenda item for such input shall be included on Board agendas. The Board shall not take action on such matters at that meeting.

(cf. 9012 - Communications To and From the School Board)

(cf. 9323 - Meeting Conduct)

All public communications with the Board are subject to requirements of relevant Board policies and administrative regulations.

(cf. 1312 - 1312.3 - Complaints Concerning Schools)

School Board Member Preparation

Commented [AE1]: AASB verbiage: The Board president and Superintendent may reject a public request for a matter to be added to the agenda for any reason.

A copy of the agenda shall be forwarded to each Board member at least ten (10) business days before each regular meeting date. All meeting materials will be publicly available at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting.

When special meetings are called, the Superintendent and President shall make every effort to get the agenda and support materials to School Board members one (1) week prior to special meetings or as soon as possible.

School Board members shall review all meeting materials before each meeting. Individual members may confer directly with the Superintendent or designee to obtain specific information on agenda items.

(cf. 9200 - School Board Members)

Legal Reference:

ALASKA STATUTES

[29.20.020](#) *Meetings public*

Adoption Date: May 23, 1995

Revised: April 30, 2024

Revised:

Northwest Arctic Borough School District