



**North Slope Borough School District Board of Education  
ZOOM Video Communication  
Utqiagvik, AK**

**Unapproved Minutes  
Special School Board Meeting  
September 10, 2020  
4:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER AND MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Muriel Brower, Board President, called the Board of Education Special Meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. on ZOOM Video Communications.

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

**ROLL CALL:**

Mary Jo Olemaun – Present	Nancy Rock – Present
Madeline Hickman – Present	Robyn Burke – Present
Qaiyaan Harcharek – Present	Muriel Brower - Present
Nora Jane Burns- Present	

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Qaiyaan Harcharek MOVED that the NSBSD Board of Education APPROVE the agenda as presented with the amended changes. Nancy Rock SECONDED the motion. Question called. The motion CARRIED in a roll call vote of six yes, zero no.

Mary Jo Olemaun – Yes	Nancy Rock – Yes	Madeline Hickman – Yes
Nora Jane Burns – Not Present	Qaiyaan Harcharek – Yes	Robyn Burke – Yes
Muriel Brower – Yes		

Robyn Burke MOVED to AMEND the agenda to INCLUDE a possible EXECUTIVE SESSION for the purposes of discussing attorney/client privileged information regarding the Qargi Academy. Qaiyaan Harcharek SECONDED the motion. The motion CARRIED in a roll-call vote of four yes, two no.

Mary Jo Olemaun – No	Nancy Rock – Yes	Madeline Hickman – Yes
Nora Jane Burns – Not Present	Qaiyaan Harcharek – Yes	Robyn Burke – Yes
Muriel Brower – No		

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:** Academic Policy Committee members, NSBEA members, NSEAA members, District staff, and Community members were present.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEM(S):** No comments were heard at this time.

**QARGI ACADEMY - INFORMATIONAL: MEMORANUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN QARGI ACADEMY AND THE NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT** is provided as reference documents. These documents included the Qargi Academy Application, Qargi Academy Contract with the North Slope Borough School District, A School within a School Parameters document, the Qargi Academic Policy Committee Founder Organization, the Adopted Signed Bylaws of the Academic Policy Committee, and the Qargi Academy Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. These were provided for the Board in previous meetings.

Board member Qaiyaan Harcharek re-stated the Qargi Academy's contract states, "Whereas, the Qargi Academy desires to operate within the District in conformance with Alaska Statutes 14.03.250 and all applicable District policies and procedures," and "Qargi Academy further warrants that it has reviewed and fully understands all requirements imposed by District policy and regulation on the operation of Qargi Academy." Board member Madeline Hickman emphasized that the original application did not specify the Qargi Academy would be a "School within a School" and expressed concern as there is limited space available in the buildings. Board President Muriel Brower thanked Emily for allowing discussion of these documents and encouraged to continue the work Qargi Academy has done thus far. Qargi Academy Principal Emily Roseberry thanked the Board members for their comments and reiterated the changes within the district, communication challenges, and importance of Iñupiaq language revitalization efforts.

**QARGI ACADEMY - CONTRACT OVER 10K, EDMENTUM INC** is presented by Qargi Academy Principal Emily Roseberry. Under Alaska Statute 14.03.255 Organizations and Operation of a Charter School, a charter school operates as a school in the local school district except that the charter school (1) is exempt from the local school district's textbook, program, curriculum, and scheduling requirements; (2) is exempt from AS 14.14.130; and operates under the charter school's annual program budget as set out in the contract between the local school board and the charter school under c of this section. A local school board may exempt a charter school from other local school district requirements if the exemption is set out in the contract. A charter school is subject to secondary school competency testing as provided in AS 14.03.075 and other competency tests required by the department. Under the Academic Policy Committee's Bylaws Article VIII, Contracts and Accounting, the Academic Policy Committee has the authority to enter into contracts, execute and otherwise legally bind the school. The Academic Policy Committee may delegate this authority, either in specific instances or in general, to the principal or his/her designee, or to any officer of the Academic Policy Committee. Under the contract between Qargi Academy and the North Slope Borough School District School Board, for the Educational Program, Qargi Academy shall provide an educational program that advances students' mastery of basic skill areas including mathematics, science, health, reading, language arts, and social studies. Qargi Academy's Educational program shall be appropriate to the age of students included in the program. Qargi Academy shall also provide for instruction in physical education, music, art, and informational technology. Courses not covered by EdOption's Academy such as music, art, and informational technology would be fostered by Qargi Academy and follow Alaska State Standards and/or cultural standards identified in the Iñupiaq Language Framework and/or culturally responsive school standards. The education program shall be designed, as described in the Qargi Academy's application. Qargi Academy students shall have the option to take District required courses such as North Slope Government through the Districts distance delivery courses that are currently being offered to all other schools on the North Slope. For Student Services, the District Student Services will provide student services, such as IEP's 504, to the Qargi Academy similar to existing school sites. Identification of students would involve collaboration of District Student Services, EdOptions Academy Teachers, parent/guardians and Qargi Academy Chief Administrator and Type M Certified teachers and utilize the District's RTI process as a guide. The Qargi Academy has budgeted for one FTE Alaska Certified Special Education teacher through EdOptions Academy to be utilized as necessary to provide services as outlined in the Special Services agreement with EdOptions Academy. In accordance with the applicable Board Policy 3312, contracts and memorandum of agreements \$10,000 or greater require Board approval. The Qargi Academy has partnered with EdOptions Academy to provide virtual online academic services. Further, EdOptions Academy would provide a Special Education teacher on an as needed basis. Additional description of the work is in the supporting documents. The length of the contract is for one year, commencing July 1, 2020 and end on June 30, 2021. This will be paid under Other Purchased Services account code 400.200.351.000.440 in

the amount of \$569,250. This account code has an available budget of \$434,520 requiring a budget line transfer of \$134,730 from account code 400.200.351.000.410. The total available budget after the budget line transfer is \$569,250.

Board member Qaiyaan Harcharek identifies Article VIII, Contracts and Accounting, as noted in this memo SB21-042, and requests clarification on the legality of its conflict with School District policies and Alaska Statute. Additionally, underlines the date of signature of approval beginning June 25, 2020 on the agreements provided, where services were then rendered beginning July 1, 2020 requiring retroactive approval by the School Board. Qargi Academy Principal Emily Roseberry reiterated that the EdOptions Academy, throughout the entire application process, has been listed and budgeted with Board approval unaccounted for as an oversight now being corrected for formality. Chief Financial Officer stated the processes of acquiring contracts at: \$10,000 require Board approval; \$20,000 or more shall be based on at least three competitive bids; and \$50,000 or more require establishing procedures ensuring that formal advertised bids are solicited. Board member Robyn Burke re-stated the Qargi Academy contract as outlined under No Agency, Partnership, or Joint Venture, “Nothing in this Contract shall be construed to constitute Qargi Academy as an agent, employee, partner, or joint venture of the District, nor shall Qargi Academy have any authority to bind the District. In no event, may Qargi Academy exceed the authority granted to Qargi Academy under Alaska Statutes 14.03.250 et seq., nor may Qargi Academy transact business as any other type of entity under applicable law.” Further, as listed in memo number SB21-042, under AS14.03.255 section c, “a local school board may exempt a charter school from other local school district requirements if the exemption is set out in the contract.” Board member Qaiyaan Harcharek requested an investigation to see if Board Policy and Alaska Statute has been violated, and then to proceed with the consideration of these contracts. Other points of discussion include: Authorization of approving and negotiation of contracts; Correcting processes involving financials in regards to contracts; Line of communication; amount of special meetings scheduled; and establishment of the Point of Contact between Qargi Academy and the School Board as the Chief Financial Officer in terms of finances.

Mary Jo Olemaun MOVED that the NSBSD Board of Education APPROVE the above \$10,000 and greater proposal for EdOptions Academy, as described in this memo and attachments. Qaiyaan Harcharek SECONDED the motion. Discussion called. Question called. The motion CARRIED in a roll-call vote of four yes, three no.

Mary Jo Olemaun – Yes  
Nora Jane Burns – No  
Muriel Brower – Yes

Nancy Rock – Yes  
Qaiyaan Harcharek – No

Madeline Hickman – Yes  
Robyn Burke – No

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** No motion was entertained.

**SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS:** Board President Muriel Brower thanked the Academic Policy Committee members, Qargi Academy, and Chief Financial Officer Fadil Limani for your preparation of this meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEM(S):** Academic Policy Committee Chair Crawford Patkotak supported Emily for her work on Qargi Academy, identifying the need for more in addition to Qargi Academy to revitalize the Iñupiaq language and culture and acknowledged the discussion held between the Board and Qargi Academy. Community member Elsie Itta encouraged others to defer judgment for two to three years to begin seeing results on the Qargi Academy’s efforts in revitalizing the Iñupiaq language. Academic Policy Committee Vice Chair Edna MacLean reminded the Qargi Academy

began as a partnership with the community with the program implementation through the School District. For the Qargi Academy to be successful, Inupiaq Language speakers need to help. The Iñupiaq language, and way of life will need others to be knowledgeable in hunting, speaking, and have avenues available where they may participate and contribute. This is a community-wide initiative in the survival and revitalization of the Iñupiaq language and culture. Iñupiaq Education department coordinator Ronald Brower Sr. encouraged cooperation from every person to ensure at least one institution that is beginning to address the revitalization efforts succeeds. Community member Fannie Akpik expressed concern for the writing and proper use of the Iñupiaq Language and encouraged Emily, Ronald, and Edna to create a committee with volunteers who are willing to help make corrections of worksheets, homework, songs, etc. Community member Michelle Danner agreed with outreach to other Iñupiaqs in the community. For inclusion and Iñupiaq values, every Iñupiaq speaker should be included. Many opportunities are also available through Qargi Academy and would like to show appreciation to the Iñupiaq Language Teachers (ILT) under the traditional schooling systems who have their own challenges as well and should be included in these efforts. Director of Human Resources Naomi Digitaki thanked the Board and community members for their support and re-iterated that Qargi Academy may be the avenue to help students in a way that the regular school system may not be able to and will grow partnerships. Assistant Superintendent Mark Roseberry encouraged the community to support these initiatives to grow and help Qargi Academy to develop into a different avenue of education. Academic Policy Committee Founding member Charlotte Brower in support of Qargi Academy, demonstrated how they learned their language and culture for years through the family and the community. Community member Amos Nashookpuk is in support of Qargi Academy for the students that may not flourish in a normal school setting. There are no alternative school settings like Kiita in the villages, and Qargi Academy allows this opportunity to occur. Corrine Danner encourages others to teach the youth, as adults now struggle with the Iñupiaq Language. Each person is entitled to their opinions and appreciate those in support of this initiative. Board member Mary Jo Olemaun thanked: the school district for all of the opportunities present for the students; Qargi Academy Founders, Committee, and team for establishing the Qargi Academy and hope to open the Academy from K-8<sup>th</sup> Grade and in support of the Academy in the schools.

**DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, October 1, 2020 Regular Meeting in Utqiagvik, AK on ZOOM Video Communications.

**ADJOURNED AT 6:13 P.M.** Nora Jane Burns MOVED to adjourn. Madeline Hickman SECONDED the motion. Question called. The motion carried UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted for the October 1, 2020 Regular Meeting:

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Chelsie Overby, Board Secretary

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Muriel Brower, Board President

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Robyn Burke, Board Clerk

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Date