



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

**Unapproved Minutes
Regular Meeting
February 17, 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 1:05 p.m. at the Archie Brower Conference Room and over ZOOM Video Communications in Utqiagvik, Alaska.

WORDS OF WISDOM provided by Frieda Nageak.

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

ROLL CALL:

John Agiak, Student Rep	Present	Rossman Ferguson	Present via ZOOM
Faith Brower, Student Rep	Excused	Qaiyaan Harcharek	Excused
Nora Jane Burns	Present via ZOOM	Frieda Nageak	Present
Frieda Moore	Present via ZOOM	Esther Evikana	Present
Nancy Rock	Present via Teleconference		

Frieda Nageak **MOVED** to excuse Qaiyaan Harcharek and Faith Brower. Nora Jane **SECONDED** the motion. Question called. Advisory vote, yes. The motion carried in a roll call vote of 6 yes, 0 no.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Frieda Nageak **MOVED** to **APPROVE** the Agenda. Rossman Ferguson **SECONDED** the motion. Question called, no objections. Advisory vote, yes. The motion carried in a roll call vote of 6 yes, 0 no.

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA includes: Resignations

Frieda Nageak **MOVED** to **APPROVE** the Consent Agenda as presented. Nora Jane Burns **SECONDED** the motion. Question called. Advisory vote, yes. The motion carried in a roll call vote of 6 yes, 0 no.

John Agiak, Student Rep	Yes	Rossman Ferguson	Yes
Faith Brower, Student Rep	Excused	Qaiyaan Harcharek	Excused

Nora Jane Burns	Yes	Frieda Nageak	Yes
Frieda Moore	Yes	Esther Evikana	Yes
Nancy Rock	Yes		

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment given.

STUDENT REP REPORT: is presented by John Agiak. Report included testimony given at the AASB Legislative Fly-in regarding the Harold Kaveolook School rebuild and funding for facilities.

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

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT is presented by Director of Finance Megan Williams for the month ending January 31, 2026. The Board reviewed a financial update as of January 2026, noting that revenues received total approximately 82% of the annual budget projection. General fund expenditures are at 59%, which is consistent with the 58% of the fiscal year that has elapsed (July through January). The general checking account balance as of January 31, 2026, is \$43,641,784.

ENROLLMENT AND ATTENDANCE is presented by Dr. 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.

CONTRACT OVER 50K, JON DAVIS is presented by Tenna Pili, Director of Iñupiaq Education. The contract is an addendum to the FY26 contract with editor Jon Davis to complete the Iñupiaq K–3 Early Reader Series manuscripts. The addendum reflects unfinished work from the prior year due to delays, with no prior payment for that work. The project supports early literacy, bilingual education, and culturally responsive instruction, and includes the development of children’s manuscripts in English and Iñupiaq, along with supporting texts and teacher guides aligned to the culture and experiences of North Slope students. The length of the contract is July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. This contract would be provided by the Iñupiaq Education Department Professional & Technical Budget Account Code: 100.200.120.000.410. This contract addendum provides an additional 70 days of service in an amount of \$42,000.00, increasing the previous contract amount of \$60,000, for a total amount not to exceed \$102,000.00. This contract is not funded through a federal award that would require a bidding proposal; however, the District has utilized Jon Davis in previous curricular materials. To provide timely continuity of service and production of materials, it would be in the best interest of the District to proceed with a contract addendum with Jon Davis.

Frieda Nageak MOVED to APPROVE that the NSBSD Board of Education approve the above \$50,000 and greater proposal and related contract with Jon Davis in an amount not to exceed \$102,000 as described in this memo and related attachments. Qaiyaan Harcharek SECONDED the motion. Question called. The motion carried in a roll call vote of 6 yes, 0 no.

John Agiak, Student Rep	Yes	Rossmann Ferguson	Yes
Nora Jane Burns	Yes	Qaiyaan Harcharek	Yes
Frieda Moore	Excused	Frieda Nageak	Yes
Nancy Rock	Yes	Esther Evikana	Yes

BOARD POLICY UPDATE, BP 0100, EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY & PURPOSE AND BB 9020, BOARD STANDARDS: is presented by Chelsie Overby, Executive Assistant.

BP 0100 EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY & PURPOSE

Situated on Iñupiaq ancestral lands, the North Slope Borough School District draws upon Iñupiaq ways of knowing (epistemology) and being (ontology) as the foundation for educational attainment. The foundational principles begin with Manḡuqput.

MADḢUQPḢT

Iñuk una qauriñianiñ iñugullaḡmi ilisimmatiniguuruq ilisausiamiñiñ naipiqtuḡniñanillu aasii taima isumalaalgusivluni sulii ilisimmaḡiksivluni. Tainnamik aasii kisuutilaani pautḡivlugu iñuguqhuni iñulluatauvluni. Isumaptiktun ilitchipkairugut sivuniqaḡluta Iñupiaḡniptinnik, iñuuniaqatigiimmaḡiññiptinnik, iluḡniptinnik sulii iñukkuksaiññiptinnik iñulluatanik, ataramik kisuutilaaqput suanḡasiqsimallaan.

Foundational Statement

*The North Slope Borough School District is committed to embedding traditional Iñupiaq approaches to educating NSBSD students through the curriculum and teaching practices. This principle, called **Iñuguqsiiñiq**, guides the District’s work with the students and communities of the North Slope. The District shares a collective responsibility to support students’ development as **iñulluatat** – good human beings – able to navigate successfully in today’s world.*

The District honors and recognizes the unique process of learning that is deeply tied to the land, culture, language and knowledge of the Iñupiat. The District’s educational approach is rooted in a foundation of Iñupiaq values which promote a strong sense of cultural identity and foster a sense of community and connection. This approach focuses on encouraging NSBSD students to think critically, learn from their observations and experiences, and become good human beings. This process respects how students learn as they become aware of their surroundings and serves to expand their knowledge into adulthood and beyond.

The **Manḡuqput** is a foundational principle that underpins an educational philosophy that recognizes the importance of the Iñupiaq language; fosters relationships; wellbeing; supports the raising of good human beings; and nurtures and strengthens the identity of the students it serves.

The **Manḡuqput** is inclusive of the Pauktuutit (Critical Elements) that will guide the Board of Education’s philosophy and vision for education within the North Slope Borough School District. It serves as a foundation and guide for decisions related to curriculum, instruction, student support, and school operations, ensuring alignment with the District’s mission for student success.

Education is the specific, mandated responsibility of the North Slope Borough School District Board of Education. This policy will guide the Board of Education in developing a five year Strategic Plan for the District, ensuring accountability and advocating always in the best interests of students and the District. Based on the Strategic Plan, the Board will work with the Superintendent and staff to develop and implement an operational plan that aligns with the Pauktuutit (Critical Elements) and promotes growth and excellence for all students.

Pauktuutit (Critical Elements) - The Critical Elements of the Manḡuqput are as follows:

- Isumaptiktun - To exercise educational sovereignty.
- Iñupiagniq - To institutionalize a climate for academic success that honors peoples' traditional ways of being.
- Iñuuniaqatigiimmağiqñiq - To rely on the wisdom of the ancestors, to instill a sense of living in harmony and working together for the greater common good.
- Iluagniq - To foster spiritual, cultural, physical, emotional and social wellness in students.
- Iñukkuksaiñiq Iñulluatanik - To recognize that the District's educational mandate includes preparing students with the skills and knowledge needed to be able to function as **good human beings** who are contributing and caring adults in their communities.
- Kisuutilaaqput Suañnasiqsimallaan - To support and strengthen identity development in students in ways that protects and honors who they are and reconnects them with ancestral ways of being and knowing.

BB 9020 BOARD STANDARDS

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

Therefore, the Board has ~~adopted~~ used the Board standards established by the Association of Alaska School Boards to create guidelines specific to our District and which provide a framework for effective school governance and keep the Board's focus on 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 Board's effectiveness in meeting them.

(cf. 9000 - Role of Board and Members)

(cf. 9230 - Orientation)

(cf. 9240 - Board Development)

(cf. 9400 - Board Self-Evaluation)

The Board is the elected governance body and ambassadors for the North Slope Borough School District. The Board's role is to oversee the strategic plan for the District and direct and guide policy. The Board has a responsibility to support the administration and ensure it implements programs and operations that deliver the strategic plan of the District and achieve its mission.

Adopted 6/01

Added 9/99 - AASB

Revised ___/26

AR 9020 BOARD STANDARDS

The Board standards developed by the Association of Alaska School Boards and adopted by the North Slope Borough School Board establish the framework for effective governance. This Administrative Regulation integrates those standards with the Board's operating commitments and expectations into one cohesive document that guides both performance and practice.

Mission & Strategic Plan

The Board should develop and maintain a dynamic strategic plan and educational mission that reflects student needs and community priorities.

The Board should keep the District and community focused on educating students, recognizing that students are the highest priority and shall be at the forefront of all Board decisions.

The Board should demonstrate commitment to the strategic plan and mission by using them to guide decision-making during properly noticed Board meetings. Decisions shall be made collectively by the Board, not independently by individual members.

Board members articulate the mission of the District by remaining connected to school communities through participation in Community School Advisory Council (CSAC) meetings on a quarterly basis when feasible, and by attending school events and community activities when possible.

Systems to Support the Mission and Strategic Plan

The Board establishes and maintains a governance system that results in effective decision-making processes and responsible use of District resources.

Meetings will begin on time and follow adopted agendas. The Board President will facilitate meetings to ensure efficiency, focus, and forward progress. Special meetings should generally be limited to no more than three agenda items unless District needs require otherwise.

The Board ensures that long- and short-term strategic plans are developed and annually revised through extensive participation, information gathering, research, and reflection. Operational implementation of the Strategic Plan should be formally reviewed by the Board mid-year and again during the annual summer retreat to ensure continued alignment with the Board's mission.

The Board sets high instructional standards based on the best available information regarding the knowledge and skills students will need in the future.

The Board encourages and supports culturally relevant approaches to teaching and learning and the continuous review of curriculum, consistent with legal requirements.

The Board acts to ensure that its mission, policies, and structure comply with applicable local, state, and federal laws.

The Board supports the administration to ensure the mission and strategic plan are operationalized in a fiscally responsible manner.

Accountability – Measuring Performance and Ensuring Responsibility

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

The Board evaluates the Superintendent and conducts a formal annual self-evaluation of Board performance during the summer retreat, taking action on findings to support continuous improvement.

The Board ensures that long- and short-term operational and educational plans are evaluated and revised with student needs in mind.

The Board uses an understandable format to periodically report District performance to the public.

Board members are expected to attend meetings and workshops in person whenever possible. If unable to attend in person, members shall remain actively engaged through approved alternative means.

Board members shall review meeting materials and packets in advance to ensure informed deliberation. All members will be given the opportunity to speak, and members will actively listen to and consider diverse perspectives before making decisions.

Committee participation is an essential component of Board accountability. Members are expected to participate consistently in assigned committee meetings. If a member is unable to attend, an alternate may be designated when appropriate.

To ensure responsible governance:

After three consecutive unexcused absences from regular meetings, a Board member may be asked to resign in accordance with applicable law and policy.

If a Board member actively participates in only 50% or less of required meetings and responsibilities, compensation may be reduced proportionally, consistent with District policy and legal requirements.

A Board member may request a special meeting through the Board President to discuss Board conduct. Where the Board President does not support the request, the Board member may seek a majority to proceed to discuss Board conduct.

The Board will follow established complaint procedures and respect administrative processes.

Advocacy – Championing Students and Community

The Board leads in celebrating the achievements of students and the accomplishments of staff, families, and community members who contribute to education.

As elected representatives for the District, Board members serve all villages of the North Slope in the best interests of all children and should support and facilitate strong relationships with parents, guardians, mentors, and community partners to support students.

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

The Board promotes School Board service as a meaningful way to make long-term contributions to the local community and society.

The Board may hold meetings within individual villages when feasible to enhance community engagement and accessibility.

The Board is proactive in identifying and addressing issues that affect the education and well-being of students.

Conduct & Ethics – Professional and Respectful Governance

The Board and its individual members act in a manner that reflects service to the community on behalf of students. As elected officials, members are committed to fulfilling their duties with professionalism and consistency.

Board members shall adhere to adopted agendas, remain focused on topics under consideration, and conduct deliberations in a respectful and orderly manner.

The Board demonstrates a commitment to continually improving teamwork, problem-solving, and decision-making skills through ongoing Board development.

Expenditures for Board activities shall be clearly identified in the budget, directly related to the strategic plan, and open to public scrutiny.

Adopted 6/01

Revised /26

Frieda Nageak MOVED that the NSBSD Board of Education approve the first reading of BB9020/AR9020, Board Standards And BP0100, Educational Philosophy as described in this memo, SB26-098, and attachments. Qaiyaan Harcharek SECONDED the motion. Question called. The motion carried in a roll call vote of 6 yes, 0 no.

John Agiak, Student Rep	Yes	Rossman Ferguson	Yes
Nora Jane Burns	Yes	Qaiyaan Harcharek	Yes
Frieda Moore	Excused	Frieda Nageak	Yes
Nancy Rock	Yes	Esther Evikana	Yes

GRADUATION CEREMONY APPOINTMENT: is presented by Chelsie Overby, Executive Assistant. School board member visits were scheduled for May 2026 as follows: Ałak School and Harold Kaveolook School on May 8, 2026, with Meade River School also on May 8 at 6:00 p.m.; Kali School on May 12 at 6:00 p.m.; Kiita Learning Community on May 14, 2026; Nunamiut School and Tikiġaq School on May 15, 2026; Barrow High School on May 16, 2026; Fred Ipalook Elementary School on May 18, 2026; Hopson Middle School on May 19, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.; and Nuiqsut Trapper School on May 21, 2026. The Board assigned members to attend graduation ceremonies as follows: Rossman Ferguson, Frieda Nageak, and Esther Evikana will attend Ałak School; Frieda Moore (with Qaiyaan Harcharek as alternate) will attend Barrow High School; Frieda Moore will attend Fred Ipalook Elementary School; Esther Evikana and Frieda Nageak (with Qaiyaan Harcharek as alternate) will attend Hopson Middle School; Esther Evikana and Nancy Rock will attend Kali School; Esther Evikana and Frieda Moore (with Qaiyaan Harcharek as alternate) will attend Kiita Learning Community; Qaiyaan Harcharek and Nora Jane Burns will attend Meade River School; Frieda Nageak will attend Nunamiut School; Rossman Ferguson will attend Tikiġaq School; Nora Jane Burns and Esther Evikana will attend Nuiqsut Trapper School; and Nora Jane Burns and Nancy Rock will attend Harold Kaveolook School.

Frieda Nageak MOVED that the NSBSD Board of Education approve the board appointments, discussed under memo number SB26-099. Qaiyaan Harcharek SECONDED the motion. Question called. The motion carried in a roll call vote of 6 yes, 0 no.

John Agiak, Student Rep	Yes	Rossman Ferguson	Yes
Nora Jane Burns	Yes	Qaiyaan Harcharek	Yes
Frieda Moore	Excused	Frieda Nageak	Yes
Nancy Rock	Yes	Esther Evikana	Yes

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Public comments regarded concerns about student safety, security, and discipline including policies, school calendar, and student support.

SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS: Board member discussion regarded staff appreciation, student achievement and leadership, on the job training, student testing, student involvement, and District focus on safety, education, and progress across schools.

SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING: March 16, 2026 Budget Hearing, Utqiagvik, AK and March 17, 2026 Regular Meeting, Utqiagvik, AK at the Archie K. Brower Conference Room / Zoom Video Communications

ADJOURNED AT 3:44 P.M. Frieda Nageak MOVED to ADJOURN. Nora Jane Burns SECONDED the motion. The meeting stands adjourned.

Respectfully submitted for the May 20, 2026 Regular Meeting:

Marie Stackhouse, Board Secretary

Esther Evikana, Board President

Frieda Nageak, Board Clerk