Work Session

Tuesday, November 25, 2025 5:30 PM
NES Library, 1057 E 5th Ave, Nome, Alaska 99762

A. **Call to Order**
B. **Items for Discussion**
1. Legislative Priorities
2. Capital Priorities
C. **Upcoming Events:**
   - **Tuesday, December 9, Regular Meeting, 5:30 pm, NES Library/Zoom**
   - **Tuesday, January 13, Regular Meeting, 5:30 pm, NES Library/Zoom**
   - **Tuesday, January 27, Work Session, 5:30 pm, NES Library**
   - **Tuesday, February 10, Regular Meeting, 5:30 pm, NES Library/Zoom**
   - **Tuesday, February 24, Work Session, 5:30 pm, NES Library**
D. **Adjournment**

2026 Nome Public Schools Board of Education
Legislative Priorities

2026 State Legislative Priorities

The Nome Public Schools Board of Education has chosen the following priority areas for the 2025-2026 Legislative Session. We will focus our advocacy efforts with the Alaska Legislature around the following:

- Funding of School Capital/Major Maintenance Projects

Nome Public Schools currently has well over $6 million dollars in needed capital improvement projects, due to aging facilities and systems for buildings, several of which were opened in the mid-1960's. Reinstatement of school bond reimbursements and full funding of projects submitted through the Capital Improvement Program are crucial to ensuring our school facilities are safe and providing the best possible environment for learning. The Capital Improvement Program scoring system should also be revamped to recognize the cost of continually updating the applications to remain competitive which places an undue burden on smaller districts.

The Major Maintenance Fund should also be allowed as a funding mechanism for repairs to teacher housing for those Districts who must provide and maintain housing in rural areas where few or no other options exist for teaching staff; while the School Construction Fund should be allowed as a funding mechanism for building new teacher housing projects in rural areas where few other housing options exist, and where the cost often exceeds the available funding through the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation's Teaching/Healthcare/Public Safety Housing grant program.

- Career and Workforce Development

Nome Public Schools recognizes that the Alaskan and U.S. workforce is undergoing a unprecedented shift and schools must be poised to prepare students for rapidly changing needs, including growth in jobs in infrastructure. The need for qualified individuals with technical skills to meet the needs for general maintenance of Nome and the surrounding rural communities, building projects, and potential new industrial expansions will mean our schools must deepen and expand our existing partnerships with local employers and the University of Alaska's Northwest Campus to create more formalized school-to-work pathways including apprenticeships and internships. The Northwest Arctic Career and Technical Center (NACTEC) is a pivotal linchpin in ensuring students from Nome and the Bering Strait Region are prepared to fill these positions and keep economic growth tightly centered and benefiting their home communities.

- Culturally Responsive Education and Language Revitalization

Culturally responsive classrooms and school settings are foundational and fundamental to any school with a high percentage of Alaska Native students. Our students deserve to see their culture, language and knowledge as an integral part of everyday instruction. It is crucial to the

achievement of Alaska Native students when identity is validated through content and methods, and they are motivated and successful when they see themselves reflected in their classrooms and schools. Curriculum which reflects students' cultural identity is often lacking in schools, as textbooks and supplemental materials reflect Western views and values. Modifying curriculum and supplemental materials requires additional time and funding, but results in students who feel engaged and connected to their schools.

Supporting the development of the State Tribal Education Compact schools is also a priority to acknowledge tribal sovereignty and return education of Alaska Native children to the tribes.

- Retaining and Attracting Quality Educators and Administrators

Alaska students deserve knowledgeable, stable, and committed teachers, principals and support staff, who are culturally grounded in their local communities. Turnover of less than 10% annually is critical to allow programmatic changes to take hold and produce desired results in the long term. Programs and professional development to grow equity leadership are crucial in making changes to a system we acknowledge has not always served our children well. Alaska's salaries and retirement system are no longer competitive or attractive to teachers from the lower 48, and we are currently utilizing non-traditional teachers, which often require additional support from colleagues and administrators. Equitable and inflation-responsive funding of school districts to provide competitive salaries and wages in response to the high cost of living in many areas in the State, rising costs and decreasing availability of housing options, control of health care costs, follow through on commitments to the TRS/PERS pension systems, and high quality teacher preparation programs through the University system are all key to developing Alaska's teacher workforce.

Reducing the barriers to international teacher candidates in Alaska is also crucial, given the rapidly shrinking pool of US-based educators. Repealing the requirement for a Social Security Number to receive an Alaska Teaching Certificate would allow these candidates to receive their certification early in the visa application process, shortening the length of time for this process and increasing their chances for receiving a full-length visa.

- Social, Emotional and Mental Health of Children

The long-term impact of the pandemic on the social, emotional and mental health of our children has turned the spotlight on the need for support and funding for school counselors, social workers, and school psychologists, as well as professional development for educators and families in trauma-sensitive and trauma-preventative practices. Schools must now assist children in regulating emotions, developing coping skills, and forming strong positive relationships with adults. Recent efforts focused on the social/emotional learning of students must be continued and expanded, especially those based in community partnerships.

Nome Public Schools also embraces the concept of wellness and a whole child approach. Children who are taught to connect their mind, body and spirit through grounding in cultural beliefs and practices have healthy attitudes and make healthy life choices. We support instruction and curriculum that promote these practices.

- Early, Predictable and Full Funding for a High Quality Education

The Board supports full and predictable funding for a high quality education for all students, which should provide revenue to cover the actual cost of education in all districts, allows for inflation and increasing costs, and includes all initiatives, laws and mandates that require additional costs and services, such as the Alaska Reads Act. In addition, early notification of funding is crucial to allow for recruitment and retention of quality educators and administrators in today's challenging job market. The Base Student Allocation should be inflation-proofed, and therefore provide competitive salaries, keep up with the costs of energy and supplies, and allow for any increases in the cost of health insurance and other employee benefits. Nome Public Schools would also support a regular review and recommendation for changes in the District Cost Factor in the foundation formula.

2026 Federal Legislative Priorities

The Nome Public Schools Board of Education has chosen the following priority areas for the 2026 Legislative Session. We will focus our advocacy efforts with the Federal Legislature around the following:

- Increasing the reimbursement for Alaska Rural/Remote communities under the National School Lunch Program to better reflect the costs of employee wages, foodstuffs and shipping costs

- Maintenance of federal funding for educational programs benefiting our students such as Title I-A, Title I-C, Title II-A, Indian Education and REAP-RLIS

- Tribal consultation support from the Office of Indian Education to State Education Agencies to better support individual districts with appropriate guidance

Nome Public School District

FY 2027 – 2032 Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan

District Priority	Primary Purpose	Project Title & Description	SOA Aid	Estimated Project Cost
1	**C**	**Nome Beltz Middle/High School Generator and Electrical Service Replacement** This project will replace an old and undersized backup generator, with a new larger generator with enclosure, which will also increase capacity to allow the high school to operate as an emergency shelter for the entire community. Installation of new transformers and required modification of power lines will also be included. **Note:** This project has been state-funded and will proceed in FY27	**X**	**$2,142,123**
2	**C**	**Secure Access and ADA improvements NBMHS & NES** ADA-This project is to address accessibility to NBHS to include the installation of ADA accessible front doors, regrading/replacing damaged concrete at bus door entrance which prevents ADA accessibility. It will include any needed ADA repairs/upgrades to interior and exterior of both the high school and the elementary. Security- This project will address security concerns at both campuses to include installation of new interior double doors inside the front entrance that can be remotely secured, as well as the installation of a closed circuit camera system. **Note:** City of Nome agreed to provide funding upfront so the project would become a reimbursement project with SOA. Bids have been over the budget.	**X**	**$363,926**
			FY 2027 TOTAL:	**$2,506,049**

District Priority	Primary Purpose	Project Title & Description	SOA Aid	Estimated Project Cost
3	**D**	**Nome Elementary Fire Alarm Replacement** This project will replace the outdated (1987) Fire panel and field devices. A completely new design and installation of panel and devices which may require new wiring. New system to ensure compliance and safety to most current NFPA and state Codes. Currently the system is obsolete, and we are sourcing used parts via eBay. **Note:** Previously submitted to DEED for Major Maintenance Funding	**X**	**$562,735**
4	**C**	**Nome Elementary Roof Replacement** This project will replace the original roof on the building. Leaks have been appearing in multiple places, and the roof has been damaged by ice dams building up on the roof. New roof design will extend panels that don't completely reach to the structure's edge or need to be extended for overhangs. **Note:** Roof survey by engineer is needed + cost estimate	**X**	**$4,000,000**
			FY 2028 TOTAL:	**$4.562,735**

Nome Public School District

FY 2027 – 2032 Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan

District Priority	Primary Purpose	Project Title & Description	SOA Aid	Estimated Project Cost
5	**D**	**Nome Elementary Parking Lot Upgrades** This project will involve removing existing asphalt in parking lot, regrading of the lot, and installing new asphalt or chip seal; concrete for an elevated walkway with lighted bollards, elevated sidewalks, and replacing the bicycle parking. Traffic patterns will be altered for safety, and parking stalls will be painted; bull rails and plugs for block heaters/trickle chargers will be installed. **Note:** NPS is working with NEC to secure funding for design services in FY26, and possibly construction funding in FY27 or later. An updated lot survey was completed in FY26.	**X**	**$3,500,000**
6	**E**	**Hot Water Heater & Plumbing Upgrades** Repair and replace aging plumbing for charter school building and high school kitchen, and hot water heaters for all school buildings.	**X**	**$500,000**
			FY 2029 TOTAL:	**$4,000,000**

District Priority	Primary Purpose	Project Title & Description	SOA Aid	Estimated Project Cost
7	**C**	**Nome Elementary Window & Door Replacement** This project would replace all of the exterior windows in the building. Some of these windows have lost their insulation seal, others no longer sit square in the frames due to shifting of the building. Others have broken glass or do not property open/close. Arctic grade windows will be used for replacement. Exterior doors will be replaced, including hardware as needed.	**X**	**$250,000**
8	**C**	**Nome Beltz Jr -Sr High School Exterior Renovations** This project will replace the siding along the RC portion to the building from the front entrance to the JH bus doors, and will require the removal of approximately 70 asbestos panels with soffit. Install two inches of foam board and wind blocking fabric. (Tyvek) The steel siding has been purchased and is in storage. Repaint exterior of entire building. Replace signage.	**X**	**$1,200,000**
9	**E**	**DDC Control System Phase 2** Complete upgrades to DDC control system that were not funded through ARP funds, including system control of charter school building, and various other upgrades throughout school buildings	**X**	**$750,000**
			FY 2030 TOTAL:	**$2,200,000.00**

Nome Public School District

FY 2027 – 2032 Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan

District Priority	Primary Purpose	Project Title & Description	SOA Aid	Estimated Project Cost
10	**C**	**Beltz High School Interior Renovations** Replace doors & door hardware as needed. Interior painting of classrooms, offices and common areas. Replacement of carpet in classrooms, offices and hallways.	**X**	**$750,000**
11	**D**	**Beltz Apartment Electrical Rewiring** District's teacher housing building's aging electrical system needs replacing, including rewiring, fuse panels, etc.		**$500,000**
12	**C**	**Nome Elementary School Interior Renovations** Replacement of carpet in hallways, offices and common areas, replacement of interior doors and door hardware, painting of classrooms, offices and common areas	**X**	**$650,000**
13	**C**	**Building D Exterior Upgrades** Renovate/repaint remaining wood siding on Building D, upgrade/replace porch entry/stairs.	**X**	**$200,000**
			FY 2031 TOTAL:	**$2,100,000.00**

District Priority	Primary Purpose	Project Title & Description	SOA Aid	Estimated Project Cost
14	**E**	**Upgrade to Snow Removal/Control Program** Project will entail installation of a bunker and cover for sand pile to prevent moisture/ice in sand pile		**$500,000**
15	**C**	**Quonset Hut Upgrades** Installation of tool cages, lofts for storage, flooring, framing and overhead door. Skirting added to exterior,		**$750,000**
16	**C**	**Maintenance Bldg Siding and Roof Replacement** Structural upgrades to Maintenance Facility		**$550,000**
			FY 2032 TOTAL:	**$1,800,000.00**

Adopted _____ at a duly convened meeting of the Nome Public School Board at which a quorum was present and voting. I hereby certify that the information presented is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

_____ _____

Superintendent Date

_____ _____

School Board President Date

Submit to the *Department of Education & Early Development* by September 1 Form #05-18-044