

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Tuesday April 14, 2026
5:31 pm
NES Library

Member Tahbone called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm Tuesday, April 14, 2026 with a quorum present.

Member Tahbone led the Pledge of Allegiance in Inupiaq.

Member Tahbone read the Nome Public Schools Mission Statement.

School Board Members Present:

Marjorie Kunaq Tahbone	Jon Gregg	Darlene Trigg (via Zoom)
Nancy Mendenhall	Sigvanna Tapqaq	
Sara James, Student Representative		

Others in attendance included:

Jamie Burgess	Alisha Papineau	Genevieve Hollins (via Zoom)
Elizabeth Korenek-Johnson	Jennifer Shreve	Jim Shreve
Mary Donaldson (via Zoom)	Karen Dixon (via Zoom)	Sylvia Paniataaq
Teriscovkya Smith	Holly Harlow	Harold Paniataaq
Ariana Crockett O'Hara	Jill Peters (via Zoom)	Megan Contreras
Joshua Contreras	Sally Contreras	Katie O'Connor
Theresa Kenick	Molly Kenick	Angela Omedelina
Kaya Kent	Alora Stasenko	Claire Fagerstrom
Michelle Carton	Erin Nelson	Neva Horton
Sage Gregg	James Ventress	Mary Ulroan

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Gregg moved to approve the agenda as presented.

The motion carried by a roll call vote with the following results:

Marjorie Tahbone: yes	Sigvanna Tapqaq: yes	Darlene Trigg: yes
Nancy Mendenhall: yes	Jon Gregg: yes	

CONSENT AGENDA

Member Mendenhall moved to approve the minutes from Regular Meeting, March 10, 2024; the minutes from the Special Meeting March 24, 2026; the March 2026 disbursements; the March 2026 personnel report; and March 2026 Gifts, Grants and Bequests.

The motion carried by a roll call vote with the following results:

Marjorie Tahbone: yes	Sigvanna Tapqaq: yes	Darlene Trigg: yes
Nancy Mendenhall: yes	Jon Gregg: yes	

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence included email correspondence regarding ANSEP's move to the UAF campus in Fall of 2026 and notification from ASAA regarding a potential bylaws change. Discussion followed.

INTRODUCTIONS OF GUESTS AND VISITORS

Mary Ulroan introduced several NNYLO students who had recently attended the Bioneers Conference – Angela Omedelina, Kaya Kent and Alora Stasenko. They each spoke briefly about their positive experience.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

NBMHS Principal, Teriscovkya Smith announced Harold Paniataaq and Joshua Contreras as Students of the Month.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA/NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Sage Gregg, Junior Representative at NBMHS – commented about the delay in discussions about college preparation until second semester.

Kaya Kent, student at NBMHS – commented about her concerns with post-secondary preparation at NBMHS.

Angela Omedelina, student at NBMHS – commented about the concerns with post-secondary preparation at NBMHS and her disappointment that Winterim was not held.

Claire Fagerstrom, student at NBMHS- commented about there were not many post-secondary preparation meetings and students did not know about them. She said that these meetings should begin in junior year.

Alora Stasenko, student at NBMHS – commented about concerns with post-secondary preparation and stated that Mr. Brown (NBMHS counselor) was too busy and needed some help. She said the school should have a nurse and a therapist.

Katie O'Connor, parent – was concerned about the lack of communication for post-secondary preparation for her child who was enrolled in the homeschooling program. She said no one from NBMHS would share information for scholarships, and that she was lucky that she had other community connections that helped her. She suggested that the district add a place on their website for seniors with scholarship information, deadlines, etc. and gave a handout to Board members with her suggestions. She also stated that Kacey Miller, ANSEP Director, had expressed willingness to help students with post-secondary preparation.

Neva Horton, student with Extensions – felt left out of the senior activities at NBMHS, could not get on an email list to receive information about scholarships, and was frustrated about the lack of opportunities.

Michelle Carton, NES Principal – concerned about the over-representation of Alaska Natives in prison. Said the district needed behavioral supports and stated concerns around attendance and lack of resources. She stated the district needed partnerships to address this.

James Ventress, parent – said a staff member broke boundaries with their child. He was pleased with how staff had responded at that time, but was upset the situation had recurred recently. He said that NPD was investigating, and was keeping his children out of the school because the staff member was still working at the school and wanted them on administrative leave while an investigation took place.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Burgess reported. The report is attached to the original of these minutes. Discussion followed.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

Student Representative, Sara James reported. The report is attached to the original of these minutes. Discussion followed.

NEA Representative Sarah Liben reported. The report is attached to the original of these minutes. Discussion followed.

NES Principal, Michelle Carton reported. The report is attached to the original of these minutes. Discussion followed.

ACSA Principal, Emily Annas reported. The report is attached to the original of these minutes. Discussion followed.

NBMHS Principal, Teriscovkya Smith reported. The report is attached to the original of these minutes. Discussion followed.

Director of Facilities, Jonathan Duarte reported. The report is attached to the original of these minutes. Discussion followed.

Director of Technology, Jim Shreve reported. The report is attached to the original of these minutes.

Director of Special Education, Mary Donaldson reported. The report is attached to the original of these minutes.

Director of Federal Programs, Karen Dixon reported. The report is attached to the original of these minutes.

CFO, Genevieve Hollins reported. The report is attached to the original of these minutes. Discussion followed.

SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

NONE

ACTION ITEMS

Member Gregg moved to approved the FY26 Budget Revision #2. Discussion followed.

The motion carried by a roll call vote with the following results:

Marjorie Tahbone: yes	Sigvanna Tapqaq: yes	Darlene Trigg: yes
Nancy Mendenhall: yes	Jon Gregg: yes	

Member Gregg moved to approve a contract for Corey Shepherd for Principal at Nome Elementary. Discussion followed.

The motion carried by a roll call vote with the following results:

Marjorie Tahbone: yes	Sigvanna Tapqaq: yes	Darlene Trigg: yes
Nancy Mendenhall: yes	Jon Gregg: yes	

Member Gregg moved to approve classified administrative contracts for Jim Shreve, Director of Technology, and Andrew White, Systems Administrator.
Discussion followed.

The motion carried by a roll call vote with the following results:

Marjorie Tahbone: yes	Sigvanna Tapqaq: yes	Darlene Trigg: yes
Nancy Mendenhall: yes	Jon Gregg: yes	

Member Gregg moved to approve the purchase of fuel for FY27 for 180,000 gallons of heating fuel from NJUS at a price not to exceed \$670,000.
No discussion followed.

The motion carried by a roll call vote with the following results:

Marjorie Tahbone: yes	Sigvanna Tapqaq: yes	Darlene Trigg: yes
Nancy Mendenhall: yes	Jon Gregg: yes	

Representative James moved to approve the declaration of School Board Seat C as vacant effective May 13th, 2026.
Discussion followed.

The motion carried by a roll call vote with the following results:

Marjorie Tahbone: yes	Sigvanna Tapqaq: yes	Darlene Trigg: yes
Nancy Mendenhall: yes		

Member Gregg moved to approve the FY27 Autism Consulting Contract with Exceptional Communities for Exceptional Children.
No Discussion followed.

The motion carried by a roll call vote with the following results:

Marjorie Tahbone: yes	Sigvanna Tapqaq: yes	Darlene Trigg: yes
Nancy Mendenhall: yes		

BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENT & COMMITTEE REPORTS

Representative James commented on her own struggles with feeling ready for post-secondary life.

Member Gregg stated his disappointment with ANSEP moving out of the high school with little notification, and felt that we were competing rather than cooperating. He also praised students for their advocacy at the City Council meeting and tonight's meeting.

Member Tapqaq praised everyone who supported the Youth Court event the prior weekend. She commented that she was also disappointed with ANSEP moving out of the high school but hoped we kept in close partnership with ANSEP and UAF-NWC. Member Tapqaq stated she looked forward to the upcoming Spring Boardsmanship Academy.

Member Mendenhall stated she appreciated all of the public comment and that people were comfortable speaking to the Board with their concerns. She was grateful for her time on the Board.

Superintendent Burgess recognized Alisha Papineau, departing Executive Admin Assistant. She also thanked Sara James for her service, and that she was grateful for the other students who spoke at the City Council meeting. She commented that she agreed with the concerns regarding post-secondary preparation and that the District was working on solutions. She commented she enjoyed her time over the past week working on the Strategic Plan with community members and staff. She commented on the work on the Portrait of a Graduate.

Member Tahbone stated she was also disappointed about the ANSEP move. She also commented on the need to make sure that homeschooling students had access to post-secondary planning opportunities. She also complimented the students who came to share comments with the Board.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Tuesday, May 12, Regular Meeting, 5:30 pm, NES Library/Zoom
- Tuesday, May 19, Special Meeting, 5:30pm, NES Library/Zoom
- Tuesday, May 26, Work Session, 5:30 pm, NES Library
- Tuesday, June 9, Regular Meeting, 5:30 pm, NES Library/Zoom

ADJOURNMENT

Member Tahbone moved to adjourn at 7:52 pm.

Marjorie Kunaq Tahbone Date
President, Board of Education

Darlene Trigg Date
Vice President/Clerk, Board of Education