



August 05, 2025

John Hopson, Jr.
President
Board of Education
North Slope Borough School District Board of Education
P.O. Box 169
Utqiagvik, Alaska 99723

Re: Invitation to Rejoin Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat and Attend Board Meeting in Nuiqsut, August 19-20

Dear President Hopson,

We were deeply saddened to receive Resolution 25-04 notifying the Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat (VOICE) of the North Slope Borough School District's (NSBSD) intent to withdraw its membership in the organization. As you know, VOICE's members are its highest priority, exemplified by our Board Chairman's public apology during your April NSBSD Board meeting. We regret the incident that led to Resolution 25-04 and continue to offer our deepest apologies to your Board and Superintendent.

To be clear, VOICE does not endorse the behavior experienced by the NSBSD and are committed to fostering an inclusive environment where all members, including NSBSD, are heard and respected. This includes supporting stronger meeting engagement and facilitation standards to identify potential areas of collaboration between our members and ensure a stronger, more respectful dialogues during VOICE meetings.

We respectfully urge NSBSD to reconsider its decision to withdraw from VOICE. Your organization plays a vital role in shaping one of our region's most important assets: our youth. We also invite you to join our upcoming Board of Directors meeting, which will be held in Nuiqsut on August 19–20, 2025. Unity among North Slope communities and organizations is essential to ensuring that our collective voice drives policies that benefit everyone in our region, especially regarding educational outcomes. The NSBSD's perspective on these issues is invaluable, and VOICE remains committed to amplifying your position with explicit support from our Board of Directors.

By rejoining VOICE, NSBSD will regain a powerful platform to achieve a variety of positive outcomes, including:

- **Shaping Educational Policy:** Influence local, state, and federal policies that support North Slope education, ensuring the NSBSD's priorities for student success and cultural integration are represented.
- **Advancing Self-Determination:** Advocate for resources and programs that empower Iñupiat youth to lead self-determined futures, aligning with NSBSD's mission.



- **Addressing Community Needs:** Collaborate on solutions to shared challenges, such as broadband access for remote learning and infrastructure for schools, enhancing educational opportunities across the North Slope.
- **Strengthening Educational Leadership:** Elevate NSBSD's voice alongside other North Slope entities to create a unified front when engaging with external stakeholders.

NSBSD's educational leadership is critical to the North Slope's prosperity and self-determination. Our initiatives, including broadband workshops to support remote education, reflect our organization's alignment with NSBSD's goals. By rejoining VOICE, NSBSD will have the opportunity to access important resources to amplify its work and ensure our youth are prepared to steward the North Slope for years to come.

We would be honored to discuss membership further, explore how VOICE can support the NSBSD's goals, and answer any questions you or your Board might have at your earliest convenience. Please contact Katie Mumford at (907) 339-6030 or kmumford@inupiatvoice.org if you have any questions about your invitation, if you would like to schedule a meeting with your Board, or to confirm your attendance at the meeting

We value the NSBSD's contributions to the region; thank you for your continued dedication to the North Slope and our youth. VOICE looks forward to discussing membership opportunities with the NSBSD and working together to advance North Slope Iñupiat self-determination.

Quyanaqpak,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nagruk Harcharek".

Nagruk Harcharek
President, Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat