

Board of Education

Tuesday, January 9, 2024 4:00 PM
Zoom, P.O. Box 90, McGrath, Alaska 99627

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

II. Mission Statement

II.A. Mission statement

III. Introduction of Guests

IV. Director Reports

IV.A. Superintendent Report

V. Site Report Presentation

VI. Recognition and Awards

VII. Communications

VIII. Public Comment

IX. Agenda Modification

X. Approval of Consent Agenda

X.A. 24-034 Approval of October 25 Minutes

X.B. 24-035 Approval of December 12 Minutes

X.C. 24-036 Approval of Personnel Recommendations

X.D. 24-037 First Reading of BP 5124 Policy Review

X.E. 24-038 First Reading of BP 6161 Selection of
Instructional Materials

X.F. 24-039 Approval of Impact Aid Grant

X.G. 24-040 Approval of Resolution 24-02 Support of
EXCEL Alaska Grant Application

XI. Discussion Agenda

XII. Final Comments

December 2023-January 2024 Board Report Superintendent Report

The following are tasks I am working on or that have occurred. Most items have been briefed with your incoming Superintendent John Bruce.

- **Holy Cross Teacher dismissed. On the payroll until January 12, 2024.**
- **CIP bid review committee met to select an A/E firm.**
- **Preparation for Major Maintenance Audit underway. This audit will occur February 12-13 2024. Steve Graham lead**
- **Special Education student support will occur in Grayling January 4-6.**
- **Staff hiring team will meet in Anchorage January 8-January 11. The team includes: PJ, Incoming superintendent John Bruce, Bob Pymn, and Tamara Vanderpool. Hiring will be very tough this year.**
- **PJ to continue to work on CIP Phase 1 progression with David Landis**
- **PJ continues to work with John PTACIN, on the BAG grant appeal.**
- **PJ will work with Bob Pymn on schedule for evaluations**
- **A schedule has been established to offer secondary coverage at Holy Cross through April.**
- **Joyce Turner and I will begin to plan the face to face board meeting in Anvik, for May, so that everyone understands this project. John Bruce will be on board for the June board meeting.**
- **PJ will work with John Bruce to strategize on a superintendent secretary.**
- **I hope everyone has had a wonderful holiday.**

PJ Ford Slack, Ph.D. December 19, 2023



Iditarod Area School District
PO Box 90, McGrath, AK 99627
(907) 524-1221
www.iditarodsd.org

Board of Education Meeting

Regular Meeting

October 25 4:00

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/9955055562?pwd=T2F2akpCYVRHQlpLdkMvVzJHMThGZz09>

Meeting ID: 995 505 5562

Passcode: 372181

Phone Number: 1-253-205-0468

4:00 Board Meeting

I Call to Order 4:02

Roll Call Vote

Attendance

Name	Vote
Ann Short	Present
Ken Chase	-unexcused
Kathy Chase	Present
Alice Dale	Present
Rudy Hamilton	Present
Kevin Welch	Called in at 4:10
Walt Maakestad	

II Executive Session

Motion: Kathy Chase moved to go into Executive Session at 4:03. Ann Short seconded. Roll Call vote taken:

Name	Vote
Ann Short	Yes
Ken Chase	
Kathy Chase	Yes
Alice Dale	Yes
Rudy Hamilton	Yes
Kevin Welch	Called in at 4:10
Walt Maakestad	

Motion carried with four of six affirmative votes.

Motion: Kathy Chased moved to come out of Executive Session at 4:55. Kathy. Kevin Welch seconded. Poll vote taken:

Name	Vote
Ann Short	Yes
Ken Chase	
Kathy Chase	Yes
Alice Dale	Yes
Rudy Hamilton	Yes
Kevin Welch	Yes
Walt Maakestad	

Motion Carried with five of six affirmative votes.

Motion: Verbal vote for candidate:

Name	Vote
Ann Short	Bruce
Ken Chase	
Kathy Chase	Bruce
Alice Dale	Bruce
Rudy Hamilton	Willyerd
Kevin Welch	Bruce
Walt Maakestad	

Rudy Hamilton changed his vote to Bruce to make it unanimous. To show complete support from Board.

Directives from Chairperson Alice Dale placed as motion.

Motion: Rudy Hamilton moved to extend a contract for Superintendent of Iditarod Area School District to John Bruce for one year (2024-2025) Offering \$130,000.00 and \$8,000.00 moving expense. Ann Short seconded. Poll Vote taken:

Name	Vote
Ann Short	Yes
Ken Chase	
Kathy Chase	Yes
Alice Dale	Yes
Rudy Hamilton	Yes
Kevin Welch	Yes
Walt Maakestad	

Motion carried.

III Discussion- No further discussion was given.

IV Board Comments- No comments given.

V Adjournment

Motion: Kathy Chase Moved to adjourn meeting at 5:02. Ann Short seconded .Poll Vote taken:

Name	Vote
Ann Short	Yes
Ken Chase	
Kathy Chase	Yes
Alice Dale	Yes
Rudy Hamilton	Yes
Kevin Welch	Dropped call
Walt Maakestad	

Motion carried.



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Board of Education Meeting

Regular Meeting

Minutes

December 12, 2023

4:00 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/9955055562?pwd=T2F2akpCYVRHQlpLdkMvVzJHMThGZz09>

Meeting ID: 995 505 5562

Passcode: 372181

Phone Number: 1-253-205-0468

4:00 Board Meeting

I Call to Order

Chairperson Alice Dale called the meeting to order at 4:21.

II Roll Call

Name	Vote
Kim Wortman	Absent, excused
Ken Chase	Absent, excused
Kathy Chase	Present
Open Seat	
Alice Dale	Present
Rudy Hamilton	Present
Doug Heath	Present

Establish Quorum with four of six members present.

III Mission Statement

The Iditarod Area School District recognizes the unique and distinctive nature of each student with regard to character, capacity, ability and heritage. In doing so, we are committed to providing individualized, comprehensive and sequential programs to all students in an atmosphere which reflects their cultural heritage; and will, through an organized, efficient and effective school program designed and dedicated to incorporating a variety of learning opportunities, assure them of successful achievement as adults in the 21st Century. This is our commitment to the students, parents and communities of the Iditarod Area School District. This is our Mission!

IV Introduction of Guests: Dale Richesin, John Bruce, Bob Pymn, Michelle McGovern, Matthew Robinson, Adrienne Wright, Jesse Carnahan, Matthew Shelborne, Jacob Mosier, Michelle Hickerson

V Presentation from David Landis, Chris Giron- SERRC

After a discussion of the review process, it was recommended to award BDS for Engineering Term Contract and enter into negotiations for Anvik school project.

VI Director Reports

Financial Review- Elena Begojevic

Ms. Begojevic reviewed the budget as of November 21, 2023. No questions were presented.

Registrar Report- Kyle Schneider

Food Service Report- Dollie Nelson

Maintenance Report- Steve Graham, Verbal report

Temporary generator in Takotna is problem. Running school with generator. Need maintaining of generator. Can change switch to maintain full coverage in school building. Will continue to maintain. Grayling truck is being fixed to fix the 4-wheel problem. Holy Cross garage door installed. New locks in McGrath to use key cards. Cameras installed. Will be online for security.

Superintendent Report- Dr. PJ Ford Slack- Thank the board review committee for their work. Thanks to all the recognition and awards people for their continued support for our children. Discussed the appeal for the BAG grant.

VII Site Reports

School Presentation- Dale Richesin, David Louis Memorial School, Grayling

Mr. Richesin spoke about his school and what is happening. Planning for school yearbook.

Matthew Shelborne, McGrath School, McGrath

Mr. Shelborne spoke of students reading on the radio. Winners for health and wellness were awarded. Looking forward to the Christmas play. Next semester will have many great projects. Through a class with UAF, Mr. Shelborne will be presenting his research on "secret readers".

Site Reports:

Anvik- Michelle McGovern

Nikolai- Jacob Mosier

VIII Recognition and Awards

Matthew Shelborne, Carol Simmons, Bob Pymn for their ability to arrive, assess, and focus on education in Holy Cross.

Tabatha Meglitch- Keeping the District Office appraised of needs in Takotna.

Dale Richesin, Matthew Robinson- For giving up his Thanksgiving holiday and helping in Holy Cross.

Tamara Vanderpool, Amber Lumetta- for their continued support for staff and paperwork.

IX Communications

X Public Comment (Limited to 3 minutes and must be added to the agenda twenty-four hours prior to the meeting)

XI Agenda Modification

Motion: Doug Heath moved to approve the agenda with the additions of 24-032 New Cook Stove for Grayling School Kitchen and 24-033 Approval of A/E term contract with BDS Engineering Firm. Kathy Chase seconded.

Name	Vote
Kim Wortman	
Ken Chase	
Kathy Chase	Yes
Open Seat	
Alice Dale	Yes
Rudy Hamilton	Yes
Doug Heath	Yes

Motion Carried with four of six affirmative votes.

XII Consent Agenda

Kathy Chase asked to pull 24-032 Cook stove for Grayling Kitchen and Pull 24-033 A/E term contract with BDS Engineering Firm.

Motion: Doug Heath moved to approve the modified agenda. Rudy Hamilton seconded.

Poll Vote

Name	Vote
Kim Wortman	
Ken Chase	

Kathy Chase	Yes
Open Seat	
Alice Dale	Yes
Rudy Hamilton	Yes
Doug Heath	Yes

Motion carried with four of six affirmative votes.

Motion: Rudy Hamilton moved to approve the listed agenda items. Kathy Chase Seconded.

Old Business

24-015 Third reading of BB 9232- Board Conduct

New Business

24-026 Approval of minutes from Special Meeting October 19

24-027 Approval of Minutes from Special Meeting October 23, 24

24-028 Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting November 8

24-029 Approval of Organizational Chart

24-030 Approval of BAG Grant Appeal

24-031 Approval of Personnel Recommendations

Name	Vote
Kim Wortman	
Ken Chase	
Kathy Chase	Yes
Open Seat	
Alice Dale	Yes
Rudy Hamilton	Yes
Doug Heath	Yes

Motion carried with four of six affirmative votes.

24-032 Approval of Stove purchase for Grayling

Motion: Doug Heath moved to approve the purchase of a new cook stove for Grayling. Kathy Chase seconded.

Name	Vote
Kim Wortman	
Ken Chase	
Kathy Chase	Yes
Open Seat	

Alice Dale	Yes
Rudy Hamilton	Yes
Doug Heath	Yes

Motion carried with four of six affirmative votes.

24-033 Approval of Contractor for A/E for Anvik Project

Motion: Kathy Chase moved to approve the A/E Term Contract offering to BDS Engineering Firm . Doug Heath seconded.

Name	Vote
Kim Wortman	
Ken Chase	
Kathy Chase	Yes
Open Seat	
Alice Dale	Yes
Rudy Hamilton	Yes
Doug Heath	Yes

Motion carried with four of six affirmative votes.

XIII Executive Session- - (BB 9321: Called to discuss matters involving personnel which are not subject to public disclosure).

Motion: Kathy Chase moved to go in to Executive Session at 6:27. Rudy Hamilton seconded. Roll Call vote taken:

Name	Vote
Kim Wortman	
Ken Chase	
Kathy Chase	Yes
Open Seat	
Alice Dale	Yes
Rudy Hamilton	Yes
Doug Heath	Yes

Motion carried with four of six affirmative votes.

Motion: Kathy Chase moved to come out of Executive Session at 7:01. Rudy Hamilton seconded.

Name	Vote
Kim Wortman	
Ken Chase	
Kathy Chase	Yes
Open Seat	
Alice Dale	Yes
Rudy Hamilton	Yes
Doug Heath	Yes

Motion Carried with four of six affirmative votes.

XIV Discussion Agenda

Appointment of Legislative Advocate from Board Member- Information will be sent to all board members separately.

XV Board Comments

Rudy Hamilton- We have seen yesterday and today. How we prepare our students who will see the future. This is critical. We are all part of the district and we own the district being part of the board. This is the future.

Kathy Chase- Thank you for serving and making our district special. Keep working on getting stronger for future.

Doug Heath- having problem with microphone.

Alice Dale- Meetings have been positive. Staff is working well and gone above and beyond for a great district.

XVI Final Items/ Adjournment

Next Meeting: January 8 through Zoom

Adjourned at 7:10.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joyce Turner



Iditarod Area School District
PO Box 90
McGrath, AK 99627

To: Alice Dale, Chairman 24-037
Members of the School Board

Through: PJ Ford Slack, PhD

From:

Date: December 14, 2023

Subject: **Review of BP 5124 Communication with Parents**

The proposal: AASB has requested that each Board review their policy of how and when the teachers are communicating with parents and what information is being shared.

Our policy states that there are regular communications through letters, newsletters, phone calls, and teacher conferences.

Each teacher has communicated with parents and communities throughout the semester. Site reports are monthly from the Principal/Teacher to the Board to keep them informed as the activities and learning that is happening within each school.

Action: The Board needs to review the writing of this policy and have the three readings to update for AASB records.

We have been fortunate to have dedicated staff to keep the parents and community included in all communications and activities at their school.

Attach: BP 5124

Students

COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS/GUARDIANS

BP 5124

Because parental involvement contributes greatly to student achievement and conduct, the Iditarod School Board encourages frequent communication between parents/guardians and teachers by means of parent-teacher conferences, class newsletters, mail, telephone, and school visits by parents/guardians.

(cf. 1250- Visits to School)

(cf. 6020- Parent Involvement)

Parent/Teacher conferences shall be scheduled at least two times per year, close to the end of each quarter, four times per year is encouraged. These may be arranged at school or at the children's home.

As part of this communication, teachers shall send progress reports and other data relating to standardized testing results to parents/guardians at regular intervals and shall encourage parents/guardians to communicate any concerns to the teacher.

(cf. 5113- Absences and Excuses)

(cf. 5121- Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)

(cf. 5146.6- Notifications Required by Law)

(cf. 6146.1- High School Graduation Requirements/Standards of Proficiency)

(cf. 6146.5- Elementary School Promotions/Standards of Proficiency)

(cf. 6162.5- Research/ Standardized Testing)



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PO Box 90
McGrath, AK 99627

To: Alice Dale, Chairman
Members of the School Board 24-038

Through: PJ Ford Slack, PhD

From:

Date: December 14, 2023

Subject: **Review of BP 6161.1 Selection of Instructional Materials**

The proposal: AASB has requested that the Board review this policy to make sure all groups are involved with the selection of instructional materials.

Guidelines should be in place for a committee to review instructional materials in a timely manner.

Action: This policy needs to follow the review process of three readings before being updated in our policy manual.

Attach: BP 6161.1 Selection of Instructional Materials.

Instruction

SELECTION AND EVALUATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

BP 6161.1 (a)

Note: AS 14.18.060 requires board to have instructional materials reviewed for evidence of sex bias, to use educationally sound, unbiased materials, and to provide training on sex-biases materials. AS 14.08.111 requires school boards to establish procedures for the review of materials, including compliance with AS 14.18.060.

The Iditarod School Board believes that instructional materials should be selected and evaluated with great care so that they are educationally sound and unbiased. Instructional materials should support the adopted courses of study and meet current curricular goals.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish procedures by which new instructional materials may be requested and subsequently evaluated, together with existing materials. The review of instructional materials shall be coordinated with the overall development and evaluation of the district's curriculum. Teachers, students, parents/guardians and community members shall have the opportunity to recommend instructional materials. The district shall provide training for certified personnel in the recognition of sex-biased materials.

(cf. 6141- Curriculum Development and Evaluation)

The Iditarod School Board shall establish instructional material evaluation committees. These committees may include teachers, administrators and other staff who have subject matter expertise, as well as parents/guardians and or community members broadly representative of the district's ethnic and socioeconomic composition. Staff members who participate in selecting and/or evaluating instructional materials shall be those most competent for the task because of their professional training, experience and assignments. The majority of each evaluation committee's membership shall be teachers.

Individuals who participate in selecting and evaluating instructional materials shall have no financial interest in the materials being reviewed, recommended, or approved.

(cf. 3315- Relations with Vendors)

(cf. 9270- Conflict of Interest)

Instruction

SELECTION AND EVALUATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL

BP 6161.1 (b)

MATERIALS (continued)

Recommendations for the adoption and/or withdrawal of instructional materials shall be presented to the Iditarod School Board by the Superintendent or designee and shall include documentation including available data to support the recommendations. All recommended materials shall be displayed and available for public inspection at the district office.

(cf. 1312.2 Complaints concerning Instructional Materials.)

(cf. 3270 Sale and Disposal of books, equipment and supplies)

Legal Reference

ALASKA STATUTES

11.56.100-11.56.130 Bribery and related offenses

14.07.050 Selection of textbooks

14.07.057 Transmittal of textbook selections

14.08.111 Duties

14.14.110 Cooperation with other districts

14/18/060 Discrimination in textbooks and instructional materials prohibited

ALASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

4 AAC 06.550 Review of instructional materials

4 AAC 06.6000 Definitions

Instruction

SELECTION AND EVALUATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS (continued)

AR 6161.1 (A)

General Criteria for Selection and Evaluation

The district shall assess the educational suitability of instructional materials according to the following criteria:

1. Relationship to the adopted courses of study and current curricular goals.
2. Contribution to a comprehensive, balanced curriculum.
3. Reliable quality of scholarship as evidenced by:
 - a. Accurate up-to-date and well documented curriculum
 - b. Objective presentation of diverse viewpoints
 - c. Clear, concise writing and appropriate vocabulary
 - d. Thorough treatment of subject
4. Fair and balanced portrayal of people with regard to race, creed, color, national origin, sex and handicap.
5. Provision a wide range of materials on all levels of difficulty, with appeal to students of varied interests, abilities and maturity levels.
6. Inclusion of materials which stimulate discussion of contemporary issues and improve students' thinking and decision-making skills.
7. Contribution to the proper articulation of instruction through grade levels.
8. Quality and durability of paper, binding etc.
9. Availability of corresponding version in languages other than English.
10. Availability and quality of corresponding teacher's guides.

Whenever possible, the district shall consider at least three different textbooks before recommending one for adoption.

Library books and reference materials do not require committee recommendation or Iditarod School Board approval. The librarian at each school shall select these materials in consultation with the Principal/Principal-Teacher, department chairpersons and teachers.

(cf. 6131.1 Library/Media centers)

Instruction

SELECTION AND EVALUATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL
MATERIALS (continued)

AR 6161.1 (b)

Conflict of Interest

Persons evaluating instructional materials for purchase by the district shall not:

1. Be employed by any person, firm or organization submitting instructional material to the district.
2. Have r negotiate a contractual relationship with any such person, firm or organization.
3. Receive any compensation from any such person, firm or organization or any of its subsidiaries or controlling entities.
4. Have an interest as a contributor, author, editor or consultant in any textbook or other instructional material submitted to the district.
5. Discuss any instructional material or related proposal which has been or is likely to e submitted to the district with the person, entity or representative submitting it, except in a meeting scheduled and authorized by the Iditarod School Board or by the Iditarod School Board appointed committee studying instructional materials.
6. Attend workshops, seminars or social events sponsored by publishers, producers or vendors of instructional materials.

Individuals formerly employed as consultants on textbooks or other materials shall not be deemed to be financially interested in the selection or evaluation of instructional materials provided they:

1. Have not had a contractual relationship or received compensation for such consultant service for two years before serving on the committee, and
2. Retain no right to compensation accruing while they serve on the committee.

Persons shall not be disqualified from serving on review committees if they disclose their financial interest and the Iditarod School Board finds the interest remote enough to permit the individual's participation.



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Resolution 24-02

**School District Resolution chartering and sanctioning EXCEL Alaska, Inc.
to submit an FY25 DOE ANE Program Grant Application**

WHEREAS, the Department of Education (DOE) Alaska Native Education (ANE) program has issued a Federal Register notice inviting eligible entities to apply to participate in its program in fiscal year 2025,

WHEREAS, the purpose of the DOE ANE program, “to support innovative projects that recognize and address the unique educational needs of Alaska Natives,” is consistent with the mission, vision, and values of Iditarod Area School District,

WHEREAS, EXCEL Alaska, Inc. is an outstanding non-profit organization that is eligible to participate in the DOE ANE program fiscal year 2025 because it is predominately governed by Alaska Natives, and has extensive operating programs that fulfill the purpose of the DOE ANE program,

WHEREAS, EXCEL Alaska, Inc. has requested that Iditarod Area School District provide it with an official charter or sanction, to meet DOE ANE, grant application requirements,

WHEREAS, because Iditarod Area School District works closely with the local tribes in each community, as the term is defined for purposes of the DOE ANE program, Iditarod Area School District is authorized to provide EXCEL Alaska, Inc. with such an official charter or sanction.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Iditarod Area School District Board of Education hereby charters and sanctions EXCEL Alaska, Inc. to conduct activities authorized under the DOE ANE program, as more fully described in Exhibit A, for the full length of time that may be necessary for EXCEL Alaska, Inc. to meet DOE ANE grant application requirements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairman of the Board of Education or his/her designee hereby authorized to take any actions or execute any documents necessary to effectuate the intent of this resolution.

Dated and Effective this 9th day of January, 2024.

Iditarod Area School District

Witness:

Chairperson, Board of Education

Joyce Turner, Board Secretary

