

# Board of Education Special Meeting

Monday, January 5, 2026 Immediately following the Work Session  
KIBSD Central Office Conference Room F140, 722 Mill Bay Road, Kodiak, Alaska  
99615

## 1. KIBSD Board of Education

### 2. Preliminaries

2.a. Call to Order **Speaker (s)** : Board President

2.b. Legal Statements **Speaker (s)** : Board President

2.c. Public Notification of Recording **Speaker (s)** : Board President

2.d. Location of Board Meeting Agendas and Documents **Speaker (s)** : Board President

### 3. Opening Items

3.a. Alutiiq Land Acknowledgment **Speaker (s)** : Board President

3.b. Roll Call **Speaker (s)** : Board President

### 4. Action Items

4.a. Leave(s) Of Absence **Speaker (s)** : Assistant Superintendent Kim Saunders

4.b. Health Presenter Approval

### 5. Community Comments

5.a. Community Comments **Speaker (s)** : Board President

### 6. Executive Session

6.a. Executive Session with AASB to Discuss Candidates for the Superintendent Search

6.b. Return from Executive Session

### 7. Adjournment

7.a. Adjournment



# Board Agenda Item

Kodiak Island Borough School District  
722 Mill Bay Rd  
Kodiak, Alaska 99615

Board Mtg. Date 1.5.26 SM	Reports of the Superintendent <input type="checkbox"/>	Action Item <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Consent Agenda <input type="checkbox"/>	Reports, Routine Monthly <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>FY27 Leave of Absence Requests:</b>				
<b>Presenter or Contact Person:</b>	Kim Saunders, Assistant Superintendent				
<b>Summary:</b>	These requests for leave of absence will be for the 26-27 school year. Requests were made within the timeline outlined in the negotiated agreement.				
<b>Financial Implications:</b>	There is no financial implication to the budget.				
<b>Attachments:</b>	<u>One- year requests:</u> FY27 Slowinski Leave of Absence Request.pdf FY27 Whiteside Leave of Absence Request.pdf  <u>Extensions for a second year:</u> FY27 Wagner Leave of Absence Request.pdf FY27 Skonberg Leave of Absence Request.pdf FY27 Wallace Leave of Absence Request.pdf FY27 Edgerly Leave of Absence Request.pdf				
<b>Recommendation:</b>	<b>Administration supports the request for a yearlong leave of absence for Rita Slowinski and Connor Whiteside for the 2026-2027 school year.</b>				
	<b>Administration supports the requests for a second-year leave of absence for Amy Wagner, Jessica Skonberg, Katie Wallace and Maya Edgerly for the 2026-2027 school year.</b>				

**Motion:**

**Move to approve the one-year leave of absence request for Rita Slowinski and Conner Whiteside for the 2026-2027 school year.**

**Move to approve the second-year leave of absence for Amy Wagner, Jessica Skonberg, Katie Wallace, and Maya Edgerly for the 2026-2027 school year.**

Rita Slowinski

Special Education Preschool Teacher

Central Office

[rita.slowinski@kibsd.org](mailto:rita.slowinski@kibsd.org)

12/15/25

**To the Members of the KIBSD School Board:**

My name is Rita Slowinski, and I am writing to formally request a leave of absence for the upcoming school year 2026-2027. After careful consideration, I believe this period is necessary for me to attend to some personal matters, spend time with family, and recharge from my first ten years of teaching. My goal is that this absence will leave me renewed and energized to support the students and staff of our district.

I respectfully request the Board's approval and appreciate your consideration. Please let me know if any additional information is needed.

Thank you for your time and for the work you do on behalf of our schools.

**Sincerely,**

Rita Slowinski

Rita Slowinski

Connor Whiteside

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher

East Elementary

[Rwhiteside01@kibsd.org](mailto:Rwhiteside01@kibsd.org)

12/15/2025

**To the Members of the KIBSD School Board:**

My name is Connor Whiteside, and I am writing to formally request a leave of absence for the upcoming school year 2026-2027. After careful consideration, I believe this period is necessary for me to attend to some personal matters, spend time with family, and recharge from serving 10 years in our schools. My goal is that this absence will leave me renewed and energized to support the students and staff of our district upon returning.

I respectfully request the Board's approval. Please let me know if any additional information is needed. Thank you for your time and for the work you do on behalf of our schools and community.

**Sincerely,**

**Connor Whiteside**

December 18, 2025

Dear KIBSD Administration and Board Members,

I am writing to formally request a second year of leave of absence for the 2026-2027 school year.

I am very grateful for the support and understanding I have received during my current leave. Teaching remains deeply important to me, and I intend to return to my position with KIBSD when I am able to do so in a way that is sustainable personally and professionally.

At this time, my request is based on family considerations. My husband and I are both teachers at KIBSD, and are parenting two young children, ages one and three. I have found that it is incredibly difficult to maintain the pace of the profession while meeting the needs of my family during this stage of life.

An additional year of leave would allow me to focus on my children's early development and to return to teaching as a more present, balanced, and effective educator.

Thank you for your time, understanding, and continued support. I am happy to provide any additional information needed.

With gratitude,

Maya Edgerly  
Peterson Elementary

December 10, 2025

Dear KIBSD School Board Members and Administration,

I am currently on a leave of absence from KIBSD for the 2025/26 school year, and I would like to request another year of leave for the 2026/27 school year.

As much as I am missing my 12-year certificated career with KIBSD, I am needing to continue to support the health and well-being of my daughter due to her high-risk pregnancy and new baby during the next year. As a parent, there is nothing more important than the health of your child, and I am very thankful that I have been granted the time to support her thus far.

I am very appreciative to the board for supporting my current leave and am hoping for this extension. Thank you all for your time and dedication to ensuring the best education for Kodiak kids!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jessica Skonberg', with a stylized, flowing script.

Jessica Skonberg

Via email:

December 11, 2025

Dear Dr. Mika and Mr. Hargraves,

I have taught 2nd and 3rd grade within the Kodiak Island Borough School District for 8 years. Most recently from 2024-2025 I taught 2nd grade at Peterson Elementary, and I am currently on a leave of absence for the 2025-2026 school year. It is my intent to return to full-time teaching within the Kodiak Island Borough School District. However, I am also requesting a second leave of absence for the 2026-2027 school year. I hope to use this time to continue to support my family, including my young children, one of which is not yet of school age.

Thank you for the consideration,  
Katie Wallace

Date: December 3, 2025

From: Amy Wagner  
PO Box 1755  
12689 Noch Drive  
Kodiak, AK 99615

To: Mr. Damon Hargraves  
Peterson Elementary

KIBSD Board of Education  
722 Mill Bay Road  
Kodiak, AK 99615

Dear Mr. Hargraves and Members of the KIBSD Board of Education,

I would like to formally request a leave of absence for the 2026-2027 school year due to personal reasons. I was most recently employed at Peterson Elementary as a Physical Education Teacher. I am hopeful that I may return for the 2027-2028 school year.

Thank you for the consideration.

Respectfully,

Amy Wagner



# Board Agenda Item

Kodiak Island Borough School District  
722 Mill Bay Rd  
Kodiak, Alaska 99615

Board Mtg. Date  
01.05.26 SM

Reports of the  
Superintendent

Action  
Item

Consent  
Agenda

Reports,  
Routine  
Monthly

Other

**Subject:**

**APPROVAL OF HEALTH PRESENTERS**

**Presenter or  
Contact Person:**

Katrina Stewart, Director of Secondary Learning

**Summary:**

Kodiak Island Borough School District Policy 6142.1 in part states, "Classes or programs in sex education, human production education, or human sexuality education may only be instructed by a certificated teacher employed by or contracted with the district, or by an individual approved by the School Board who is supervised by a certificated teacher of the district.

*Before curriculum, literature, or materials related to sex education, human reproduction education, or human sexuality education may be used in a class or distributed in school, the materials shall be approved by the School Board and made available for parents to review."*

Administration is bringing forward an additional health presenter for review:

- Emily Jensen, Kodiak Community Health Center

Emily Jensen of Kodiak Community Health Center has designed a substance use prevention program and in her role as Community Health Worker at KCHC, she has offered to either share her program/lessons with teachers to implement or she can come in and lead the lessons.

**Financial  
Implications:**

There is no financial impact to the budget.

**Attachments:**

Credentials of Health Presenters are available for review by contacting the Central Office.

**Recommendation:** | Administration recommends the Board approve Emily Jensen as an additional health presenter.

**Motion:** | **Move to approve Emily Jensen as an additional health presenter.**

## **Youth Substance Use and Mental Health Literacy Education Program – for KIBSD**

Purpose: To address and prevent the high rates of substance abuse and mental illness among Alaskans, specifically the youth population of Kodiak, through education modules.

Why It's Important: Adolescents engage in risky behaviors and doing so is an essential aspect of advancing into adulthood, but blind engagement can easily lead to addiction and other related consequences. Preventing substance abuse in youth can eliminate the need for costly and hard to access services later on and prevent a host of mental and physical issues in the short and long term. Successful prevention strategies decrease risk factors and enhance protective factors.

### Program Goals:

- Increase participant awareness of mental health and substance use risks among youth and young adults by 60%
- Increase student knowledge of the effects of substance abuse and mental health coping strategies by 60%
- Provide all participants with access to the provided tools and strategies for monitoring mood, stress, and substance-related behaviors

### Program Aspects:

- The program implements the Theory of Planned Behavior:
  - o The Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) highlights how behavior is implemented by factors such as individual attitudes, intentions, behaviors, and beliefs. By addressing the attitudes and beliefs of a community, in this case the youth population of Kodiak, perceptions will change and the awareness of substance use risks and mental health literacy will increase.
- For parents (likely in pamphlet and e-pamphlet form):
  - o Information on the impacts of substance abuse
  - o Information regarding how to implement effective and evidence-based protective factors against substance abuse
  - o Invitation to a class on how to implement effective and evidence-based protective factors against substance abuse
- For students:
  - o 8-10 educational lessons with information on substance abuse and mental health literacy (including healthy coping mechanisms that are not drug use). These educational lessons include interactive activities to promote student engagement.
    - These lessons may either be utilized in a teach-the-teacher method by providing staff with the necessary information and materials
  - o A pre- and post-intervention survey to gauge the change in student knowledge level and attitudes on the presented topics.
  - o An outline of the lesson plans is shown below (the outline currently displays all 10 of the topics discussed but may be condensed into eight education session if desired)

<b>Lesson Name</b>	<b>Objective(s)</b>	<b>Included Activities</b>
Intervention Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gather pre-intervention survey data</li> <li>- Introduce intervention plan to participants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pre-intervention survey</li> <li>- Present intervention objectives</li> <li>- Ice breaker activity</li> </ul>
About Substances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Know the immediate effects of a variety of substances</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Partner: what do you already know?</li> <li>- Did you know?</li> <li>- Blookey</li> </ul>
What is a Substance Use Disorder?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Define substance use disorder</li> <li>- Know the signs and symptoms of a SUD</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Present information</li> <li>- Skittles Tic-Tac-Toe</li> </ul>
Long-Term Substance Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Know the effects of long-term substance use/abuse</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review types of substances</li> <li>- Introduce long-term effects of substance use</li> </ul>
Can I Change? (Neuroplasticity)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Define neuroplasticity</li> <li>- Know the local resources for those struggling with substance abuse</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Present neuroplasticity video</li> <li>- Comfort zones activity</li> <li>- Exit ticket</li> </ul>
What is Mental Health?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Define mental health</li> <li>- Know the importance of mental health literacy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Communication game</li> <li>- Introduce most common mental health challenges</li> <li>- Mental health terms blookey</li> </ul>
Signs and Symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Describe the signs and symptoms of mental illness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mental health disorder presentation</li> <li>- candy quiz</li> </ul>
Managing your Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Know healthy coping mechanisms</li> <li>- Access mental health toolkit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduce healthy coping mechanisms</li> <li>- Distribute and practice using toolkit</li> <li>- Gratitude candy quiz</li> </ul>
Know your Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Confidently make educated decisions</li> <li>- Ask questions regarding mental health literacy and substance use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Situations activity</li> <li>- Open Q&amp;A site (anonymous)</li> <li>- Provide toolkit materials (again)</li> </ul>
Intervention Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review of topics discussed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Post-intervention survey</li> <li>- Self-reflection activity</li> <li>- Distribute toolkit materials (again)</li> </ul>

Thank you for your time and interest in this project! If you have any questions please reach out to Emily Jensen at [ejensen@kodiakchc.org](mailto:ejensen@kodiakchc.org).