

# MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

350 East Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska 99645 - 907-861-8683

Tim Hale, District 1  
Stephanie Nowers, District 2  
Dee McKee, District 3  
Maxwell Sumner, District 4  
Bill Gamble, District 5  
Dmitri Fonov, District 6  
Ron Bernier, District 7



Thomas Bergey, District 1  
Kendal Kruse, District 2  
Kathryn McCollum, District 3  
Andrew Shane, District 4  
Brooks Pitcher, District 5  
Ole Larson, District 6  
Ted Swanson, District 7

## MEETING MINUTES

ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

JOINT ASSEMBLY/SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

6:00 PM

TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2025

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Edna DeVries.

### **II. ROLL CALL**

**Present:** 5 - Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember Maxwell Sumner, Assemblymember Bill Gamble, Assemblymember Dmitri Fonov, and Assemblymember Ron Bernier

**Excused:** 2 - Assemblymember Tim Hale and Assemblymember Dee McKee

### **SCHOOL BOARD ROLL CALL**

Present: School Board Member Thomas Bergey, School Board President Kathryn McCollum, School Board Member Andrew Shane, School Board Member Ole Larson, and School Board Member Ted Swanson.

Excused: School Board Member Kendal Kruse and School Board Member Brooks Pitcher.

### **III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Assemblymember Nowers moved to add a second audience participation after the joint business.**

**The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes: 10 -** Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, Assemblymember Bernier, School Board Member Thomas Bergey, School Board President Kathryn McCollum, School Board Member Andrew Shane, School Board Member Ole Larson, and School Board Member Ted Swanson

**Excused: 4 -** Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember McKee, School Board Member Kendal Kruse, and School Board Member Brooks Pitcher

#### **IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by School Board President Kathryn McCollum.

#### **V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

The following person spoke to concerns with gas lighting, use of Borough funds, and the Rose Group: Jackie Goforth.

The following person spoke to the funding plans from the Governor's Office and education policy: Todd Smoldon, Executive Director of Governor Dunleavy's Mat-Su Office.

#### **VI. JOINT ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

##### **A. Annual Budget and Bonding for Schools (MSB 2.12.075(A))**

###### **25-062 MSBSD FY 2026 Budget Presentations**

Dr. Randy Trani, Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District Superintendent, spoke to the budget.

Katie Gardner, Deputy Superintendent of Business and Operations, presented on the Fiscal Year 2026 Matanuska-Susitna School District budget.

##### **B. Hybrid Learning Opportunities (Requested by MSB Administration)**

Dr. Randy Trani, Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District, spoke to hybrid learning opportunities and the Mat-Su Central School ribbon cutting ceremony on April 4, 2025.

#### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

The following person spoke to the State Foundation Formula and reforms from the Governor's Office: Todd Smoldon, Executive Director of Governor Dunleavy's Mat-Su Office.

## **VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, SCHOOL BOARD, AND STAFF COMMENT**

School Board Member Shane thanked staff for the presentation regarding the budget and opined he is proud of the School District. Spoke to Artificial Intelligence school topics and creative ways to educate.

School Board Member Swanson thanked the Assembly for hosting and staff for clarification on the budget.

School Board Member Larson spoke to new policies to increase student learning. Thanked staff for the budget presentation. Spoke to trade students and early graduation.

School Board Member Bergey thanked staff for the presentation.

School Board President McCollum thanked staff for the presentation.

Assemblymember Bernier thanked staff for the presentations and spoke to his own children in the school system. Said a prayer

Assemblymember Nowers thanked staff for the presentations and spoke to the changing world and opined she would like to see where kids end up after graduation.

Assemblymember Gamble thanked staff for the presentations and opined he would be reaching out to his legislators.

Assemblymember Sumner spoke to School Board President being his first grade teacher and thanked everyone for attending.

Mr. Spiropoulos wished everyone a happy Greek Independence Day.

Dr. Randy Trani offered further assistance to anyone that still has questions on the School District Budget.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.



Mayoral Signature and Clerk Attestment

For

March 25, 2025, Joint Assembly/School Board Meeting Minutes

(3 pages)

EDNA DeVRIES, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 04/15/25