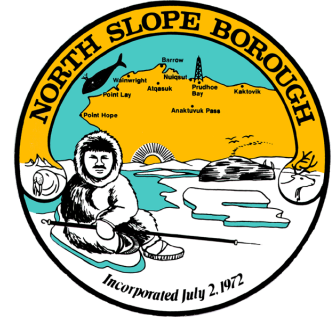


# North Slope Borough

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Phone: 907 852-2611 or 0200  
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*Josiah A. Patkotak, Mayor*

## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

CONTACT: **NSB Public Information**  
[info@north-slope.org](mailto:info@north-slope.org)

**FEBRUARY 26, 2024, 11:55pm**

**Tikigaq** - With the recent events our ilas are dealing with the North Slope Borough (NSB) and North Slope Borough School District (NSBSD) along with other community leaders and elders have decided to make attending the normal school day optional for our children beginning Tuesday morning (2/27). We acknowledge that our only school in our small community provides sometimes the only opportunity in the middle of winter for our K-12 children to see each other. During this time of loss, we want to provide a support system for our students who have grown up together. To parents and guardians: students who do not attend school will be marked as an 'approved absence'; it is totally optional if you'd rather keep your kids home to hold, hug, and explain the circumstance to them.

Understanding how traumatic events like these affect our EMS volunteers and staff, who are most times closely related to those they are serving, the NSB Fire Department will be flying in staff from our sister communities on the slope to provide on-call EMS coverage over the coming weeks.

The rest of the world has been reaching out regarding the school closure and why we've identified the potential need for additional counseling and support services. We appreciate the outpouring of thoughts and prayers. Input from the local community leaders and families in Point Hope on what is needed and when will remain top priority.

Our small communities are intertwined in immeasurable ways dating back generations. We know it is important to respect the privacy and sensitivity of the community affected. For those seeking further details about the incident itself, we urge you to refer to the charging documents filed with the court and allow the legal process to unfold accordingly. We are gathering all facts and true circumstances and will provide more detailed comments at a later date.

Quyanaq and God Bless

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