

ALASKA STATE  
PROFESSIONAL TEACHING PRACTICES COMMISSION  
UNADOPTED Minutes – October 5 , 2026

The Alaska State Professional Teaching Practices Commission (PTPC) will meet October 5, 2026

- A. The Commission will virtually meet in General Session on Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, from 8:30 until 4:00 or until business is concluded.

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## GENERAL SESSION

- Call to Order – Emma Melkerson 8:35 am
- Roll Call
  - Emma Melkerson
  - Angela Alston
  - Kathryn Baird
  - Heidi Barnes
  - Patrick Frymark
  - Michael Robbins
  - Deborah Riddle
- Quorum established
- Melody Mann present
- Jennifer Joanis, Assistant Attorney General, present
- Motion to approve agenda - Michael Robbins, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Deborah Riddle
  - Unanimous approval
- Introductions/Questions
- Public Comment—No one present for public comment. Closed

[NOTE: Some of the following agenda items may be taken out of order.]

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- April 23, 2026, meeting
  - Michael Robinson moved to approve April 23, 2026, minutes, Heidi Barnes 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Unanimous approval.
- June 24, 2026, meeting
  - Michael Robinson moved to approve June 24, 2026, minutes, Patrick Frymark 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Unanimous approval.

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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

- Financial Report – received.
  - Activity Report – received.
    - Melody Mann will be inducted as the chair of the National Council for the Advancement of Educator Ethics later this fall
  - Case Report – received.
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## DEED REPORT

- Administrator for Teacher Education and Certification, Simone Sanders Teacher Certification update.
  - Application processing time is 10-12 weeks, currently working on applications submitted the week of August 10th
  - New district portal that allows district personnel to review what has been uploaded and assist applicants to correct errors before DEED review (i.e. this is an unofficial transcript)
  - Working on hiring to fill open positions, have been two staff down all summer
  - Processed over 4,730 certificates between June 1, 2025, and June 1, 2026
  - Teachers can see documentation that has been submitted previously via Teach AK when renewing or updating certifications
  - Effective date of certification backdates to when the application was complete with all supporting documentation. Per statute, if an application is submitted with incomplete/incorrect supporting documentation the effective date of certification is NOT the initial submission date, but the date upon which it is deemed corrected.
  - Looking at processes to improve clarity of directions and required documentation for applications
  - Question from the commission- how are international teachers background checked? details to be provided at the January meeting
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## EXECUTIVE/DELIBERATIVE SESSION

**AS 44.62.310 (b)** If permitted subjects are to be discussed at a meeting in executive session, the meeting must first be convened as a public meeting and the question of holding an executive session to discuss matters that are listed in (c) of this section shall be determined by a majority vote of the governmental body. The motion to convene in executive session must clearly and with specificity describe the subject of the proposed executive session without defeating the purpose of addressing the subject in private. Subjects may not be considered at the executive session except those mentioned in the motion calling for the executive session unless auxiliary to the main question. Action may not be taken at an executive session, except to give direction to an attorney or labor negotiator regarding the handling of a specific legal matter or pending labor negotiations.

**AS 44.62.310 (d)** a governmental body performing a judicial or quasi-judicial function when holding a meeting solely to make a decision in an adjudicatory proceeding.

This is Patrick Frymark. I move to enter into executive/deliberative session as outlined in

AS44.62.310(b) and (d) for the purposes of conducting the Executive Director's performance evaluation. 2<sup>nd</sup> Angela Alston- Unanimous approval, 9:59 am.

PTPC staff and other attendees left the room and recording was stopped.

This is Patrick Frymark. I move to leave executive/deliberative session as outlined in AS44.62.310(b) and (d). 10:29am 2<sup>nd</sup>: Kathryn Baird- Unanimous approval

This is Deborah Riddle. I move to enter into executive/deliberative session as outlined in AS44.62.310(b) and (d) for the purposes addressing the cases before the commission. 2<sup>nd</sup> Heidi Barnes- Unanimous approval, 10:30 am.

This is Michael Robbins. I move to leave executive/deliberative session as outlined in AS44.62.310(b) and (d). 1:20 pm 2<sup>nd</sup>: Patrick Frymark- Unanimous approval

### **Case #25-08**

This is Heidi Barnes. In the matter of PTPC Case **25-08**, I move that the Commission **accepts the Decision and Order for a one-year suspension** of the Professional Administrative Certificate of Timothy L. Bauer. 2nd Patrick Frymark.

- Roll Call Vote:
  - Angela Alston – yes
  - Kathryn Baird - yes
  - Heidi Barnes - yes
  - Patrick Frymark - yes
  - Emma Melkerson - yes
  - Deborah Riddle - yes
  - Michael Robbins - excused
- 6-0 Motion Carries.

### **Case #25-33**

This is Deborah Riddle. In the matter of PTPC Case **25-33**, I move that the Commission **accepts the Decision and Order of a revocation** of the Professional Teaching Certificate of Mandi Coe. 2nd Angela Alston.

- Roll Call Vote:
  - Angela Alston – yes
  - Kathryn Baird - yes
  - Heidi Barnes - yes
  - Patrick Frymark - yes
  - Emma Melkerson - yes
  - Deborah Riddle - yes

- Michael Robbins - excused
- 6-0 Motion Carries.

#### **Case #26-01**

This is Kathryn Baird. In the matter of PTPC Case **26-01**, I move that the Commission **accepts the stipulation of a one-year suspension effective July 11, 2025**, of the Professional and Master Special Services Certificate of Therese Holtz. 2nd Deborah Riddle.

- Roll Call Vote:
  - Angela Alston – yes
  - Kathryn Baird - yes
  - Heidi Barnes - yes
  - Patrick Frymark - yes
  - Emma Melkerson - yes
  - Deborah Riddle - yes
  - Michael Robbins - excused
- 6-0 Motion Carries

#### **Case #26-04**

This is Deborah Riddle. In the matter of PTPC Case **26-04**, I move that the Commission **accepts the stipulation of a one-year suspension effective July 5, 2025**, of the Professional Teaching Certificate of James Castleton. 2nd Heidi Barnes.

- Roll Call Vote:
  - Angela Alston – yes
  - Kathryn Baird - yes
  - Heidi Barnes - yes
  - Patrick Frymark - yes
  - Emma Melkerson - yes
  - Deborah Riddle - yes
  - Michael Robbins - excused
- 6-0 Motion Carries

#### **Case #26-11**

This is Angela Alston. In the matter of PTPC Case **26-11**, I move that the Commission **accepts the Decision and Order of a one-year suspension effective August 3, 2025**, of the Professional Out-of-State Teaching Certificate of Janet Bryant. 2nd Patrick Frymark.

- Roll Call Vote:
  - Angela Alston – yes
  - Kathryn Baird - yes
  - Heidi Barnes - yes
  - Patrick Frymark - yes
  - Emma Melkerson - yes
  - Deborah Riddle - yes

- Michael Robbins - excused
- 6-0 Motion Carries

#### **Case #26-20**

This is Heidi Barnes. In the matter of PTPC Case **26-20**, I move that the Commission **accepts the Decision and Order of a one-year suspension effective August 7, 2025**, of the Professional Certificate of Michael Deering. 2nd Deborah Riddle.

- Roll Call Vote:
  - Angela Alston – yes
  - Kathryn Baird - yes
  - Heidi Barnes - yes
  - Patrick Frymark - yes
  - Emma Melkerson - yes
  - Deborah Riddle - yes
  - Michael Robbins- excused
- 6-0 Motion Carries

#### **Case #26-13**

This is Michael Robbins. In the matter of PTPC Case **26-13**, I move that the Commission **accepts the stipulation of a one-year suspension effective August 20, 2025**, of the Initial Teaching Certificate of Stephanie Lebeau. 2nd Angela Alston.

- Roll Call Vote:
  - Angela Alston – yes
  - Kathryn Baird - yes
  - Heidi Barnes - yes
  - Patrick Frymark - yes
  - Emma Melkerson - yes
  - Deborah Riddle - yes
  - Michael Robbins - yes
- 7-0 Motion Carries

#### **Case #26-43**

This is Patrick Frymark. In the matter of PTPC Case **26-43**, I move that the Commission **accepts the stipulation of a revocation**, of the Professional Out-of-State Teaching Certificate of Jessica Gillam. 2nd Michael Robbins.

- Roll Call Vote:
  - Angela Alston – yes
  - Kathryn Baird - yes
  - Heidi Barnes - yes
  - Patrick Frymark - yes
  - Emma Melkerson - yes
  - Deborah Riddle - yes
  - Michael Robbins – yes
- 7-0 Motion Carries

### **Administrative Review**

This is Patrick Frymark. In the matter of the denial of a complaint, I move that the Commission upholds the denial of a complaint. 2nd Michael Robbins.

- Roll Call Vote:
    - Angela Alston – yes
    - Kathryn Baird - no
    - Heidi Barnes - yes
    - Patrick Frymark - yes
    - Emma Melkerson - yes
    - Deborah Riddle - yes
    - Michael Robbins – yes
  - 6-1 Motion Carries
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### *DISCUSSION ITEMS*

- Revision to Code of Ethics of the Education Profession
  - Still under review with the Department of Law
- Executive Director Melody Mann will be at the PPI and NCAEE conferences. She will be inducted as the chair of the NCAEE during the conference.

### *INFORMATIONAL ITEMS*

- Sanction data presentation and discussion, data presentation will continue to be refined
- Executive Director to check with other states regarding breach of contract processes

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### *ADJOURNMENT*

This is Michael Robbins. I move to adjourn. 2<sup>nd</sup> Deborah Riddle 2:27 pm. Unanimous.