



**NOME PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
P.O. Box 131  
Nome, Alaska 99762  
Phone (907) 443-2231 / Fax (907) 443-5144

## **RESOLUTION 2017-001**

### **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ALASKA NATIVE LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAMS**

WHEREAS, NPS's mission is that in active partnership with families and the community, we educate and inspires students to become successful and responsible global citizens in an environment that represents our rich cultural diversities and local traditions;

WHEREAS, NPS currently has approximately 700 students enrolled in grades K-12 and over 80% of whom are Alaska Native heritage;

WHEREAS, a majority of our students receive an exposure to Inupiaq and Yu'pik language instruction;

WHEREAS, NPS strongly supports language immersion education, and supports efforts that will result in more quality language immersion education programs in the district and the state;

WHEREAS, NPS has a shortage in our region of teachers for any expansion of immersion programs that possess the required level of language proficiency and who are also able to fulfill the state's teacher certification requirements;

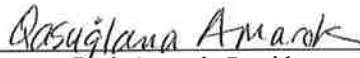
WHEREAS, Alaska's current teacher certification laws contribute to the difficulty school districts have in hiring quality language immersion instructors;

WHEREAS, providing school districts greater flexibility in the hiring of language immersion teachers, would give districts, including NPS, more flexibility to offer and expand high-quality and highly-sought-after language immersion programs;

WHEREAS, expanding the scope of the existing Type M and Type I limited teacher certificates, as proposed in HB 102 and SB 75, would allow NPS to hire qualified native speakers of Indigenous languages that are a struggle to hire;

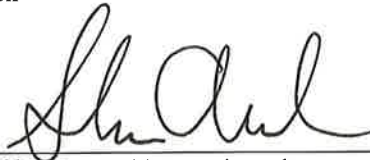
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Nome Public Schools Board of Education supports legislation such as HB 102 and SB 75 that will provide greater flexibility for school districts to fill teaching positions in Alaska Native language immersion programs.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** this 11th day of April 2017.

  
Dr. Barb Amarok, President

Jennifer Reader  
Brandy Arrington

Nancy Mendenhall

  
Shawn Arnold, Superintendent