

ALASKA STATE  
PROFESSIONAL TEACHING PRACTICES COMMISSION  
UNADOPTED Minutes – April 23 - 24, 2026

The Alaska State Professional Teaching Practices Commission (PTPC) will meet April 23-24, 2026

- A. The Commission will virtually meet in the General Session on Thursday and Friday April 23rd and 24th, from 8:30 until 4:30 or until business is concluded.

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## GENERAL SESSION

- Call to Order – Emma Melkerson 8:30 am
- Roll Call
  - Emma Melkerson
  - Deborah Riddle
  - Michael Robbins
  - Kathryn Baird
  - Angela Alston
  - Heidi Barnes
  - Patrick Frymark
- Quorum established
- Melody Mann present
- Simone Sanders present
- Motion to approve agenda - Deborah Riddle, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Michael Robbins
  - 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

- January 29 - 30, 2026, meeting
  - Patrick Frymark moved to approve January 29 - 30, 2026 minutes, Heidi Barnes 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Unanimous approval.

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## DEED REPORT

- Administrator for Teacher Education and Certification, Simone Sanders Teacher Certification update.
- DEED Suzanne Morris, Certification Team Lead, and Andrew Gillilan, Education Specialist, present

- Certification timeline 1 1/2 to 2 months from start to finish currently
  - Approximately 30% of applicants submit complete information, which results in a 2–3-week processing time
  - Approximately 70% of applicants need to resubmit some elements (common errors include smudged fingerprints, unofficial transcripts instead of official, unsigned contracts as employer verification, mandatory trainings that are more than 5 years old)
- Entire process is online, except fingerprinting
  - Physical prints sent to DEED, then forwarded to Department of Public Safety who then forwards to the FBI for background checks
- Between February 28, 2025, and February 28, 2026, 4,250 certificates processed
- New program for veterans with bachelor’s degrees to get a post baccalaureate certification in Anchorage
- Registered apprenticeship program through the Department of Labor for both teachers and principals, currently 49 potential teachers are currently in the program and 13 principals starting in the fall

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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORTS

- Financial Report – received.
- Activity Report – received.
- Case Report – received.

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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 Michael Robbins. I move to enter into executive/deliberative session as outlined in AS44.62.310(b) and (d). 2<sup>nd</sup> Deborah Riddle- Unanimous approval, 9:32 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). 1:34pm 2<sup>nd</sup>: Kathryn Baird- Unanimous approval

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### Case #25-01

This is Deborah Riddle. In the matter of PTPC Case **25-01**, I move that he Commission **accepts the stipulation of a surrender** of the Professional Teaching Certificate of Christian Caldarera. 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 – yes
- 7-0 Motion Carries.

### Case #25-34

This is Deborah Riddle. In the matter of PTPC Case **25-34**, I move that the Commission **accepts the stipulation of a surrender** of the initial Teaching Certificate of Collin Herbert 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 – yes
- 7-0 Motion Carries.

### Case #25-26

This is Angela Alston. In the matter of the uncontested hearing in PTPC Case **25-26**, I move that the Commission **orders a one-year suspension effective January 7, 2025**, of the Professional Teaching Certificate of Melissa Cormier (Rowe). 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 – yes
- 7-0 Motion Carries

**Case #26-01**

This is Kathryn Baird. In the matter of PTPC Case **26-01**, I move that the Commission rejects the stipulation of reprimand. 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 – yes
- 7-0 Motion Carries

**Case #26-04**

This is Kathryn Baird. In the matter of PTPC Case **26-04**, I move that the Commission rejects the stipulation of reprimand. 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 #26-11**

This is Heidi Barnes. In the matter of PTPC Case **26-11**, I move that the Commission rejects the stipulation of reprimand. 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 – yes
- 7-0 Motion Carries

**Case #26-20**

This is Kathryn Baird. In the matter of PTPC Case **26-20**, I move that the Commission rejects the stipulation of reprimand. 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 – yes
- 7-0 Motion Carries

### **Administrative Review**

This is Angela Alston. In the matter of PTPC Case #25-15, I move that the Commission upholds the dismissal of a complaint. 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 – yes
- 7-0 Motion Carries

### **Administrative Review**

This is Patrick Frymark. In the matter of PTPC Case #25-39, I move that the Commission upholds the dismissal of a complaint. 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 – yes
- 7-0 Motion Carries

### **PTPC Officer Elections**

Michael Robbins nominates Kathryn Baird. Nomination declined.

Deborah Riddle nominates Emma Melkerson. Nomination accepted

Michael Robbins motion Emma Melkerson to be chair of the PTPC. Patrick Frymark second. Unanimous approval.

Angela Alston nominates Patrick Frymark for vice chair. Nomination accepted.

Patrick Frymark nominates Michael Robbins for vice chair. Nomination accepted.

Secret ballot by Zoom. Michael Robbins is elected vice chair.

Patrick Frymark moves to continue Kathryn Baird as secretary. Michael Robbins second. Unanimous approval.

**FY 27 Meeting Dates**

This is Deborah Riddle. I move that meetings for the upcoming year be held October 5-6, 2026, January 28-29, 2027, and April 19-20, 2027. Patrick Frymark second. Unanimous approval.

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*DISCUSSION ITEMS*

- Revision to the Code of Ethics of the Education Profession
  - Currently in process, further update in October
  
- Sanction Data Compilation
  - To enable PTPC to better support educators in the state
  - To be completed by Department of Law intern

*INFORMATIONAL ITEMS*

- McGrath Training Solutions
  - June 2 - 4, 2026
  
- No updates on vacant commission seats

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*ADJOURNMENT*

This is Deborah Riddle. I move to adjourn. 2<sup>nd</sup> Michael Robbins 2:37 pm. Unanimous.