

EAGLE RIVER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
at Alpenglow Elementary School Library
Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting
January 8, 2025, 6:30 – 8:30 PM

- Call to Order: (Quorum - 10 voting members of the Council)
- Approval of Minutes: December 11, 2024, meeting.
- Elected Officials Reports:
 - Anchorage Assembly Report: Mark Littlefield
 - 3% sales tax got tabled to March 4th. There are currently many variations.
 - CBERRRSA proposal got approved. The tax cap initiative will be on the ballot for the operational budget only.
 - Currently capped at 2.1, proposal would raise cap to 2.4 that potentially could be used.
 - Areawide service safety [11:00]
 - Spring Hill, Campbell, Bartlett HS, Baxter, Ravenwood, school intrusion systems will be on the ballot.
 - Anchorage Police Vehicles on ballot.
 - School Board Report: ASD Board Member
 - School closures.
 - Fire Lake and Baxter schools are not going to be closed at this time.
 - Schools that area going to close will no longer be neighborhood schools, but the building will be repurposed for charter schools or other uses.
 - Capital projects for safety and maintenance of facilities.
- New Business:
 - Anchorage Public School District Presentation organized by Tom Roth (formerly COO of ASD)
 - Goals are to Inform, Educate, Enable Discussion, and Dialog.
 - Jim Anderson current COO
 - Right sizing district, closing schools and repurposing buildings. Look for groups of schools near each other that are at low capacity. Fire Lake was 50% capacity, Eagle River Elementary and Homestead Elementary were both at lower capacity. District is not funded from the state at a level that can support low population schools. The last BSA increase was in July 2016. Since then, there has been only a 0.05% increase. Closing and demolishing a school building only saves 40-50 mil of maintenance the over next several decades. Anchorage's declining birthrate has caused lower enrollment.
 - Katie Parrot
 - Kim Bautista, Principal Ravenwood Elementary
 - Sixth graders were moved to Gruening Middle School for the 2024-25 school year.
 - 2023-2024 Ravenwood had 18 teachers, with approx. 30-students per room.
 - Ravenwood lost 4 teachers this year. Currently 14 teachers. 6th grade had 32 kids per classroom teacher. Kindergarten rooms have 25 & 26 kids per teacher.
 - All improvements are being funded by the PTO.
 - James Bell, Principal Gruening Middle School
 - 42 students per class.
 - ASD does not have a retirement plan for teachers. Lower 48 are paying about the same but also offer a retirement plan.
 - Not growing teachers in Alaska. University system in AK produced 130 teachers last year.
 - Tim Helby, Principal Eagle River High School
 - Continually losing teachers. No electives other than band, PE, and art.
 - AP classes are available online.
 - 3% federal funding in operating fund. ASD gets a lot of grants; most are 2-3 years.
 - Federal funding for students of military families.

Officers:

President – Julie Jessen (2026)
V. President – Tom Roth (2025)
Secretary – Sarah Davenport (2027)

Board Members:

Ruth Armstrong (2025)	Tom Freeman (2026)
Arlene Rasic (2025)	Pete Panarese (2027)
Alex Jorgensen (2027)	Crystal Kennedy (2025)

EAGLE RIVER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
at Alpenglow Elementary School Library
Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting
January 8, 2025, 6:30 – 8:30 PM

- AK is the only state in the union that has a waiver for Federal Impact Aid.
 - Long term trend of less enrollment since 2010. Projected to continue this path for the next 4-5 years.
 - Charter schools are sometimes moved to ASD school buildings. Charter schools generally use buildings that are not purposely built to be schools.
 - High school academies program is evolving. Freshman academy exposes students to a variety of career options.
- Committee Reports:
 - Eagle River Community Patrol: Cliff Cook
 - Be aware of packages being delivered to homes.
 - Report all crime no matter how small.
 - Micro-Tel guy was apprehended. No details known.
 - Parks & Rec: Ruth Armstrong/Jared Goecker (Alt)
 - Staff is going to update BOS on budget and undesignated funds.
 - Special work session at 10am Saturday to go over updated budgets.
 - FLAMI contract for Mac Center is to be looked at in-depth.
 - Regular meeting next Monday 1/13/2025.
 - Federation Community Councils: Alex Jorgensen/Joy Webb (Alt)
 - Joy reported. Devices for holding a hybrid meeting via zoom are available for loan from FCC.
 - Mayor Rep Barb Jones was at the meeting.
 - 75 Board and Commission members have been approved recently but there are still opportunities to volunteer.
 - Emergency Preparedness: (Marvin) Dean Cox
 - Online training needs to be done before in-person training can be done.
 - CBERRRSA: Crystal Kennedy/Arlene Rasic (Alt)
 - Initiative will be on the ballot for District 2 Chugiak-Eagle River.
 - Connection being made from Brooks Loop Rd to Centerfield Dr., New short strip of road will be named Pipple Place.
 - Starner Bridge is open.
 - Subcommittee is looking at maintenance contract.
 - Discussion on maintaining streets after ice.
 - Glenn Hiland Interchange meeting
 - <https://glenn-hiland.com/meetings.html>
 - Comments from Eagle River Community Council Membership/Guests (3 minutes each)
 - Bad odor from landfill. There was a fire that damaged the lining. Garbage is currently being relocated so the lining can be repaired and then the garbage can be buried again. At which time it will stink less.
 - Problem property on Citation, four-plex with orange plastic in front of it. Owned by government loan. People in hazmat suits had worked there. Does the community council have a way to put restrictions on who gets loans for properties.
- Upcoming Events:
 - Next ERVCC meeting will be held on February 12, 2025, 6:30pm at Alpenglow Elementary School Library

Officers:

President – Julie Jessen (2026)
V. President – Tom Roth (2025)
Secretary – Sarah Davenport (2027)

Board Members:

Ruth Armstrong (2025)	Tom Freeman (2026)
Arlene Rasic (2025)	Pete Panarese (2027)
Alex Jorgensen (2027)	Crystal Kennedy (2025)