

Homer High School Site Council

March 3, 2026 Minutes



Site Council members present:

- ✓ **Marina Co** (student)
- ✓ **Reid Rauch** (student)
- ✓ **Mike Tozzo** (teacher)
- Kyle Schneider** (teacher)
- Vicki Lowe** (teacher)
 - ✓ **Deb Curtis** (support staff)
- ✓ **Julie Gauthier** (support staff)
- ✓ **Eric Pederson** (principal)
- ✓ **Sue Rennolds** (teacher)

Sarah Richardson (secretary/parent)

Jeanette Schafer (parent)

Amy Sundheim (parent)†

- ✓ **Mike Illg** (chair/parent)
- ✓ **Erica Marley** (parent)
- ✓ **Casey Eberle** (parent)
- ✓ **Rachel Kincaid** (community)
- ✓ **Lia Calhoun** (community)
- ✓ **Clayton Smith** (community)

Non-Members present

Katie Bynagle (assistant principal)

Erin Stevens (assistant principal intern)

Agenda

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:06 PM.

Public Comment

Guest: Tim Daugharty

- Attended two days of the School Board consolidation and budget meetings.
- Shared updates regarding proposed budget reductions:
 - Cuts to librarians and librarian aides
 - \$700,000 reduction in programmatic staffing
 - \$500,000 reduction in reading programs
 - Cuts to distance education and middle college programs
- Proposed school closures:
 - Tustumena Elementary
 - Sterling Elementary
 - River City Academy
 - Seward Middle School
- Additional schools under consideration:
 - Paul Banks Elementary
 - Nikiski schools

Response:

- Eric P. provided clarification on programmatic staffing.
- Expressed appreciation to Tim for sharing information and encouraged continued community engagement.

Approval of Agenda

- Motion to approve the agenda: **APPROVED**
- Note: Site Council members may propose additions or changes to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

- Previous meeting minutes: **APPROVED**

Visitors

- Tim Daugharty

Old Business

1. HHS Site Council Bylaw Review Update

- Previous discussion ended at quorum.
- Review resumed with procedures section.

2. Student Council Scheduling Resolution (Marina/Reid)

- Pederson discussed the role of leadership.
- Consideration of removing advisory period.
- Passing period adjustments:
 - Proposal to increase one passing time to 8 minutes
 - No changes will be implemented this school year
- Tardy data review:
 - Average: 1,550 tardies per quarter
 - 1st Quarter: 1,202 tardies (with larger student population)
 - 2nd Quarter: 1,200 tardies (with larger student population)
- **Conclusion:**
The Site Council supports the Student Council's recommendation to administration to lengthen passing periods.

New Business

1. Student Council Report (Marina/Reid)

- Winter Ball generated approximately \$2,000 in profit.
- Pep Rally held last week
- Step-Up Day activities will follow this spring.
- "Spring Forward" tree displayed in the commons.
- Meatball Camp results:
 - Freshmen defeated Juniors
 - Staff defeated Freshmen

2. Pool Operation Update (Katie)

- Estimated annual operating cost: ~\$250,000.
- Anticipated changes:
 - After summer, schools may discontinue pool operations ("schools are getting out of the pool business").
- Swim Club is in discussions with the city regarding future operations.
- Pool chemical certification process is complex and rigorous.
- Kenai and Seward have developed a flat-fee model for pool use.
- Impact:
 - 200+ students learn to swim annually

- McNeil Canyon and Fireweed Elementary utilize the pool for lessons
- Funding efforts:
 - Swim Club exploring grant opportunities (Rural Health Transformation grant).
- **Suggested Support:**
 - Engage with Kachemak Swim Club and City Council.

3. Theater Operation Update (Katie)

- Theater has officially reopened.
- Screens from battens have been permanently removed.
- Borough support was instrumental in reopening.
- Meetings held with user groups and borough representatives.
- Positive collaboration and next steps have been established.
- Upcoming events:
 - School musical
 - Homer Council on the Arts (HCOA) event
- Strong shared commitment between user groups and administration.

4. Administration Report & Upcoming Events (Eric/Katie)

- Ski Team:
 - Boys and girls teams placed 2nd at State
 - Girls team received an academic award
- Basketball regionals underway.
- Hosting 2A event (Ninilchik).
- Drama, Debate, and Forensics (DDF) attended State.
- 20 students currently traveling in Italy.
- Spring sports begin tomorrow.
- Grade check date: March 16.

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 5:20 PM.

Next Meeting

- School Board Meeting: April 6, 2026