

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 with further negotiations and discussions for the next school year's schedule.

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