



Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education Candidate Application

District 8 (Homer)

Application deadline:

Open until filled. Applications to be reviewed on September 27,
2016, at 12:00 p.m.

Submit application to:

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District
Board President Joe Arness
C/O Debbie Tressler, Board Administrative Secretary
148 North Binkley Street
Soldotna, Alaska 99669

Date 9/21/16

Name	<u>Michael (Mike)</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Illg</u>	<u>Redacted</u>
	<u>First</u>	<u>MI</u>	<u>Last</u>	<u>DOB</u>

Residence Address	<u>934 Larkspur Ct</u>	<u>Homer</u>	<u>AK</u>	<u>99603</u>
	<u>Physical</u>	<u>City</u>		<u>Zip</u>

Phone	<u>Home</u>		Email	<u>Redacted</u>
	<u>Cell</u>	<u>Redacted</u>		
	<u>Work</u>	<u>Redacted</u>		

Please list boards and committees that you serve on, or have served on
(business, civic, community, fraternal, political, professional, recreational, religious, social).

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Role/Title</u>	<u>Service Dates</u>
<u>KPBSD Wellness Committee</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>2014-Present</u>
<u>Homer High Site Council</u>	<u>Community Member Rep</u>	<u>2014-Present</u>
<u>Alaska Recreation & Parks Association (ARPA)</u>	<u>Board Member: Rec Services Chair, Member At Large, Professional Development Chair</u>	<u>2010-Present</u>
<u>Pauls Banks Elementary School</u>	<u>Volunteer</u>	<u>2014-2015</u>
<u>KPBSD Key Communicator</u>		<u>2014-Present</u>

Education/Training/Certificates/Awards/Honors

Bachelor of Science in Parks & Recreation Management, Master of Science in Recreation, Tourism & Sports Management

Nationally Certified as a Certified Parks & Recreation Professional (CPRP) by the National Recreation & Parks Association

2014 "Professional of the Year" -Alaska Recreation & Parks Association

How would the KPBSD benefit from your involvement on the School Board?

First and foremost, I am a Dad of a 7 year old student within KPBSD in addition to being an uncle of six other students. I believe it is both prudent and ideal to have parents of current students represented on the school board. I am very familiar with many of the local community stakeholders, issues and concerns within the Homer/South Peninsula area. I believe that I have the ability to listen, problem solve and fairly represent my community members. I have served on the KPBSD School Board's Wellness Committee, served on Homer High School Site Council, volunteered at Paul Banks Elementary (KPBSD Key Communicator) and coached wrestling at Homer High School and Homer Middle School. I have been personally vested in the success of KPBSD students long before I became a parent of one, as I fully belief the youth of our community are the foundation of our future. I currently work for a municipality as a public servant and the past 14 years have provided me with experience in the political, fiscal and accountability fields within the public sector.

If you are appointed to the Board, what are the three top priorities you would hope to accomplish?

The first priority is addressing the budget. There are tough fiscal times ahead and KPBSD needs to continue to find ways to provide the best education possible by identifying creative ways of doing it with less. This will be a learning process.

Second priority is continuing and improving communication with ALL of our stakeholders not just parents of current students. The school district is the largest budget item for the borough so we need to continually remind the taxpayers where their investment is going and easily identify the successful returns.

The third priority is retaining and supporting quality staff. Without the front line of dedicated staff delivering the expertise and services they provide, we simply cannot succeed as the best school district in Alaska.

In the development of a budget, what goals and objectives would guide your decision making?

I believe it is important to prioritize the needs of the entire school district with KPBSD mission always in the forefront: "to develop productive, responsible citizens who are prepared to be successful in a dynamic world". As funding continues to become a challenge, we must be able to reach consensus with the board, administration, staff and the general public on what those priorities are and how can we equitably provide the best education with what resources we have. It will be helpful for me to review previous annual budgets, core funding sources, enrollment numbers, research trends in other schools and the results. This analysis will allow me to learn how good fiscal planning relates to obtaining educational goals. While I may represent the Homer area, my decision making process will have all students from all areas with their best interest in mind.

How would you suggest the Board improve communications with all District stakeholders?

Good communication is paramount to the success of any entity that is responsible for the development of future citizens with accountability to the public. I would suggest the district consider reaching out to other municipal entities. Something as simple as being a guest on the local city council agenda and giving a 10 minute presentation on what is happening at the local school could provide a new and creative way to reach out to many social demographics that are often distant from the goings on of our schools. Another idea is to create informal "meet and greet" at a local coffee shop with local board members and principals. This could provide another way to reach out directly or indirectly to other demographics of our community, even if they do not have children in the school district, as they are

stakeholders too. We also need to celebrate the successes of our graduates as a way to remind our communities of the great work we do in the district. Radio spots or newspaper columns titled "Where are they now?" will reinvigorate another link in the community when we start thinking about the successes of nieces, nephews and grandchildren of community members. The more people know about us and understand all the amazing things that are happening, the better informed they will be with regard to why education is so important.

Please tell us anything else you'd like to share.

Schools are the proverbial "axis of opportunity" mediums for so many life changing events beyond academia. For some students it is the very lifeblood that keeps them going in their formative years of life: a safe place to be, a meal to fill your belly, opportunities to make connections with future life long friends, a feeling of belongingness/purpose or maybe meeting that happenstance mentor that changes your life forever. Public schools in my formative years was my refuge, my beacon and it is my personal goal that our schools will continue to do the same for those students who unknowingly seek and need this as well.

I would also like to point out that I ran for the KPBSD Homer District 8 seat back in 2012 against Liz Downing and lost by a close margin (10 votes). I think Ms. Downing has done an incredible job representing Homer and KPBSD and these will be some very big shoes to fill.

Interviews with the Board of Education will occur on the afternoon of Monday, October 3, 2016 during a public work session. The successful applicant will be officially seated during the evening's 6:00 p.m. business meeting.