

**From:** Maya Benavente [<mailto:mayabenavente.mb@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 15, 2019 12:49 PM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk <[G\\_Notify\\_AssemblyClerk@kpb.us](mailto:G_Notify_AssemblyClerk@kpb.us)>  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER>KPB Assembly Meeting 4/16/19 comments

I AM IN SUPPORT OF THIS AND ASK THAT THE ASSEMBLY APPROVE IT. OUR SCHOOL IS ONE THAT WOULD BE HIGHLY EFFECTED BY NOT APPROVING THIS AS A MIDDLE SIZED SCHOOL. THERE'S AN EQUITY PROBLEM WITH THE SCHOOLS AND BEFORE SEWARD IS ASKED TO LOSE MORE FTEs AND PROGRAMMING, THE LARGE SCHOOLS SHOULD LOSE THEIR FAIR SHARE – JUST LIKE TAXES! HIGHER INCOME INDV ARE TAXED HIGHER BECAUSE THEY CAN AFFORD MORE THAN THE LOWER BRACKETS. SOLDOTNA HIGH CAN AFFORD TO GIVE FTEs TO THE SMALLER SCHOOLS. Ordinance 2018-19-33 appropriating supplemental funding of \$2,423,955 for the KPB School District FY19 budget. This ordinance will assist the school district for the current year preventing fewer pink slips to be given as teachers determine whether a contract for next year will be offered.

I AM NOT IN SUPPORT OF THIS BECAUSE IT WILL NEGATE THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF 2018-19-33. WE NEED A REVENUE STREAM. PLEASE TRY TO INCREASE THE SALES TAX AGAIN AND PUT SOME RESOURCES TOWARDS EDUCATING THE PUBLIC. MANY WILL SUPPORT EDUCATION IF THE FUNDS ARE GUARENTEED TO BE SPENT ON EDUCATION. Resolution 2019-027 sponsored by the mayor. This resolution sets the floor for FY20 funding from the borough to the school district. Ironically, the mayor has chosen to reduce the school district's request by the \$2.4 million we are proposing to add to the current year.

April 15, 2019

Wayne Ogle, President  
and Members of the  
Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

Re: 2018-19-33 and 2019-027

Dear President Ogle and Members,

I strongly support funding for our school district. Contrary to the belief of some, our schools are performing at grade level and ours are some of the best, if not in the state, then in the country. Look at the colleges our graduating students attend, they are the best in the nation, and our Peninsula students qualify for those, easily.

At this time teachers are still working without a contract, there are no funds for any wage increases or benefit increases. We know the medical benefits cost more each year, which requires more funding for the district. They are faced with substantial losses in state funding, and if that comes to pass, the percent for the cap allowed will decrease which will be devastating.

On the Southern Peninsula we are facing the closure of two outstanding neighborhood schools, McNeil and Chapman. These two schools have traditionally sent to Homer leaders and scholars. That loss will be felt. And then to have to close the middle school and put those younger students with high school students will also have a negative impact.

I realize other areas of the borough are also looking at closures that are likewise wrenching. I also realize we seniors who qualify for the \$350,000 property tax exemption are contributing to the substantial loss of income to the borough. I for one, would welcome a slight increase in the mill levy to cover supporting the school district. These students are our future, our Borough was formed to support Education, among other things. Please support 2018-19-33 and 2019-027.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Milli Martin  
P.O. Box 2652