

eComments

Ordinance 2025-19-07

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Location:

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Had a problem with posting a comment. This may be a duplicate. The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education has decided to close Ninilchik and Seldovia School pools. The Board of Education has also decided to close remaining pools in the next budget year.

Two actions need to be taken. 1. Pass this ordinance to enable Ninilchik and Seldovia communities to have working time to operate pools during this school year. 2. Establish a working group to develop a management of change Plan/Transition Plan to the new stewards of pool operations and maintenance so that children and adults in our borough are able to learn how to swim and be safe in our coastal marine/river/lake environment. NOTE: The communities and state have invested a lot of money to build and maintain the pools as needed assets. This should be respected and continued.

Why is this important? There must be clarity about the specific tasks that are done currently, who is responsible and the cost of operations and maintenance. Then, those tasks must be transferred to the new stewards, so things don't fall through the cracks.

There has been discussion on ways to fund pool operations and maintenance in the KPB through a KPB wide pool service area, having school district fund swimming lessons which is being done on a limited basis now (revenue), setting up relationships with physical therapy businesses to use pools (revenue). This idea and others need to be discussed and reviewed by a working group (representatives from KPBSD, KBP, pool managers, community) to develop a best way forward so there is a smooth transition.

Downsizing and fiscal cuts are soul crushing and heartbreaking. At the same time, as a larger community we need to come together to make sure that critical skills such as being able to swim are developed in children and adults who live, work and play in a coastal marine/river and lake environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and you have my commitment to help in this matter.