

## Blankenship, Johni

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**From:** delaneblackstock@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Monday, February 25, 2019 1:41 PM  
**To:** Dunne, Willy; Cooper, Kelly; Fischer, Paul; Carpenter, Kenn; Blakeley, Norm; Bagley, Dale; Ogle, Wayne; Smalley, Hal; Hibbert, Brent; Blankenship, Johni  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER>help us help ourselves

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Hello, local representatives;

We have recently relocated our family back to Homer, Alaska after living in Oregon for the last 15 years. I grew up here, and something I was always very proud of was the caliber of our public schools, the active community surrounding our theater and pool (so important during these long and dark winters!), the access to vocational resources shared with the community college as high school students, and the opportunities to travel as teams and individuals throughout the state through sports. Individually these experiences ranged from routine to exceptional, but collectively they were formative. We wanted our kids to enjoy the same upbringing that I did, and so we uprooted them, our investments, basically our entire lives to allow them this experience.

The recent threat to remove so much imperative funding from our school district feels personal, yes, because of the grave impact it will have on our family. What worries me even more is the impact it will have on our community. Who would choose to raise their families here? It takes a village to nurture young people. Will educators, the educated, the artists, the athletes, the investors, the visionaries see a future for themselves or their families here? Slashing budgets so erratically jeopardizes not only our kids' immediate education (40 kids a classroom does not qualify as "education"; it actually seems like inadequate-to-the-point-of-being-dangerous-childcare), it creates a confidence crisis in all those who are paying attention to Alaska's economic future.

Already, just with the proposal of this budget slashing, teachers are looking to relocate out of our state. Positions become available for applying in March, and nobody can afford to wait to see where the dust settles on these disastrous proposals, so they're scouting new jobs in the lower 48s. The fact that we are already losing quality teachers, community members, and young families to these threats is deeply unsettling. Not only do they have no job security, as one of them put it "I don't want to raise my family in a place that puts such a low priority on education and thinks 40 kids to a classroom is realistic for learning".

We are sickened daily by the ongoing conversations that nobody can help themselves but having: A third of the high school teachers gone?! Merging our rural school to the one in town with multiple portables/ an hour-long-busride away?! Closing the pool in our seaside community- reckless endangerment!! Closing our beloved theater, the center of our cultural experiences and exposure to the endeavors local and abroad?!!

These decisions to slash our school's budget are coming hand-in-hand with similarly dire threats to our marine highway system and our state airports. Collectively they are a blatant attack on rural communities, and rural communities define the Alaskan lifestyle.

We do not have a diverse economy to support critical infrastructure, so dividends from oil revenues were designed to cover the inevitable shortfall that was predicted in order to support future generations. Why is the permanent dividend now being promised as cash payouts to Alaskans? Is it for the easy votes? This is the equivalent of some kid running for class president on the campaign platform of getting a soda machine for the lunch room. This is obviously a terribly idea, so the adults in the room have to shut it down on the grounds of tooth decay, obesity, ADHD, and diabetes. Who is the adult in the room advocating for the un-fun idea of not handing out a bunch of cash? Who has to say no to flat-screen TVs and Hawaiian vacations? Who has to remind us that entire communities will collapse if we don't have schools, airports, or a ferry system?

I'm thinking it's you. We do know better, but that cash is just so fun! But we actually aren't entitled to use it for discretionary spending. It is our responsibility to use it to invest in Alaska's future. And dismantling all of our public services does just the opposite if that. Yes, some people (as our family did growing up) use it for important bills, like heating and groceries. But these folks could instead be offered targeted programs to alleviate financial crisis. I don't think this is the letter where I advise on how to support families in need, so I'll just point out that the permanent dividend is not the answer. We have the money available to stabilize this budget. If we simply choose not to increase the dividend by double or triple, the difference will make up for the shortfall we are scrambling to recover from. A reckless administration can damage it's own reputation pretty quickly, as been recently proven by Dunleavy. As the ripple effect of his threats cascade over our landscape, please choose to be on the right side of history. Choose quality education, choose reliable transportation, choose community centers and our cultural experiences. Choose a legacy that doesn't destroy the fabric of our identity in one generation for the fleeting momentary pop of cash money. Choose to recognize the economic peril we'll all be thrust into as this infrastructure crumbles.

I think this has all served as an important reminder not to take these imperative services for granted, as they define our identity, our culture, our way of life. They are absolutely worth fighting for, sacrificing for. Please lead us in following through with our constitutional obligation to keep our schools viable, and our communities accessible.

Thanks for your patience while I meander about in my thoughts; this budget is dangerously sweeping, and it's hard to prioritize what to be most scandalized by.

Bottom line is that we need you to help us help ourselves by allowing us to invest in our future. It is our responsibility.

Thank you for your time and service,

Delane Blackstock

971-235-9880



## **Broyles, Randi**

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**From:** Blankenship, Johni  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 04, 2019 4:13 PM  
**To:** Broyles, Randi  
**Subject:** FW: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

**From:** Kenai Peninsula Borough [mailto:webmaster@borough.kenai.ak.us]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 04, 2019 2:52 PM  
**To:** BoroughAssembly <Borough-Assembly@kpb.us>  
**Subject:** New Public Comment to Assembly Members

**Your Name:** Shannon McBride-Morin

**Your Email:** [Shannon@AlaskaWildernessLodge.com](mailto:Shannon@AlaskaWildernessLodge.com)

**Subject:** Education Funding to the Cap

**Message:**

Dear Mayor and Assembly Members;

Please fully fund Public School Education to the Cap. I fully support public schools and our educators. I do not want to see funding reduced, schools close, programs cut, the loss of sports and pools and great teachers. I do not want my kids in underfunded schools with high Pupil Teacher Ratios of 30+ kids in a class. This is not the Alaska I know and love, and this is not acceptable. I am a lifelong Alaskan and a product of AK public schools - Homer High class of 1989 - and I am college educated and a small business owner who is an active and involved member of our community, including volunteering in the schools and with youth programs. My husband and I moved back to Homer to raise our kids here in part because of the great schools and quality public education. We do not want to be part of a community and state that cuts education to the bone - it hurts the kids, the teachers, the families and the local economy, not to mention is it not what a civilized society does. We must support our public schools - it is the foundation of our Democracy. I have kids at Homer High and Homer Middle and fully support fully funding education. I support a balanced approach to increased revenue - I support income taxes, and I support taxing the Oil Companies. I am willing to pay for what we get living here in Alaska - and we all deserve our kids and all kids to have a high quality public school education. Please fund Education to the Cap, and do all you can to support our kids and our public schools. Thank you,

Shannon McBride-Morin  
Kachemak Bay Wilderness Lodge  
PO Box 965  
Homer AK 99603  
907/ 399-2006  
[Shannon@AlaskaWildernessLodge.com](mailto:Shannon@AlaskaWildernessLodge.com)

## **Broyles, Randi**

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**From:** Blankenship, Johni  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 04, 2019 10:41 AM  
**To:** Broyles, Randi  
**Subject:** FW: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

**From:** Kenai Peninsula Borough [mailto:webmaster@borough.kenai.ak.us]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 04, 2019 10:19 AM  
**To:** BoroughAssembly <Borough-Assembly@kpb.us>  
**Subject:** New Public Comment to Assembly Members

**Your Name:** Milli Martin

**Your Email:** [millimom37@gmail.com](mailto:millimom37@gmail.com)

**Subject:** School Funding

**Message:**

Dear Assembly members, I strongly support full funding for our local schools. We have some of the best schools in the state on the Peninsula, they need our full support. I also urge your support of Ord. 2018-19-33 additional education funding. Please give them all the support they need.

Thank you.

Milli Martin

## Broyles, Randi

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**From:** Blankenship, Johni  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 04, 2019 9:55 AM  
**To:** Broyles, Randi  
**Subject:** FW: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

Public comment

**From:** Kenai Peninsula Borough [mailto:webmaster@borough.kenai.ak.us]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 03, 2019 9:27 PM  
**To:** BoroughAssembly <Borough-Assembly@kpb.us>  
**Subject:** New Public Comment to Assembly Members

**Your Name:** Sabrena Berryman

**Your Email:** [tobreezy@hotmail.com](mailto:tobreezy@hotmail.com)

**Subject:** Education and the arts

**Message:**

I am one of the co-directors of the homer nutcracker which has been happening for 30 years. Please fully fund education and the arts and sports as it is paramount to the broadening of our youth that are going to be responsible for sustaining our fragile planet and undoing the negative impact that we've already begun.

**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