



North Slope Borough School District

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To whom it may concern,

RE: Letter of Support for the Harold Kaveolook School Fire Rebuild

The North Slope Borough School District supports the project dedicated to rebuilding the Harold Kaveolook School in Kaktovik that was burned down February of 2020. Schools in rural communities are the center of our community providing a sanctuary of learning, a community gathering place, and growth for generations. This loss has been devastating and resulted in significant loss of opportunity for our children, our community and our region.

As of today, a temporary facility for student learning is a converted unused 'man-camp.' The facility does not have a: gymnasium for physical activity or cultural activities; dedicated rooms for vocational education such as woodshop/small engines, music, art, home economics; or, usable library for students due to its limited size. While we are appreciative of the efforts in ensuring there is a facility for student learning, the initiative to rebuild our school is not merely about reconstructing Harold Kaveolook School; it symbolizes our unwavering commitment to education, community, and hope.

In times of adversity, it is essential to come together and channel our collective strength towards a common goal. In recognizing the importance of the physical and mental health of the whole child, providing an environment that promotes and protects the student's health, well-being, and ability to learn requires a facility that supports the intended educational, cultural, social, and recreational needs of the community.

Due to circumstances outside the control of our District, the rebuild of the school has taken much longer than expected. As such, we are writing to endorse the rebuild of the Harold Kaveolook School and pledge our support as needed.

Together, we must turn this setback into a testament of Iñupiaq strength, perseverance, and excellence.

Robyn Burke
NSBSD Board President

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NSBSD Board Clerk