

Robyn Burke  
P.O. Box 1557  
Utqiagvik, AK 99723

June 16, 2020

Pauline Harvey, Superintendent  
North Slope Borough School District  
P.O. Box 169  
Utqiagvik, AK 99723

Dear Superintendent Harvey,

Please accept this letter of interest for the recently vacated School Board Seat "C" for District 3, Utqiagvik. My name is Robyn Kate Niayuq Burke. I am a parent and a lifelong community member with a longstanding, vested interest in the welfare of the School District for all of the North Slope communities that it serves. My interest in this position is layered but at its heart is simple- this is home and it always will be. I want to contribute to and help ensure that the future of education on the North Slope is strong.

I have the honor of being the mother of three amazing children. My incredibly bright stepson, Dontae, will be going into the 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Hopson Middle School this fall, my sweet son Rowan is 18-months and will be attending Ipalook Elementary School in the fall of 2022 and my inquisitive 5-month old daughter, Maevyn, will be attending the following year in 2023. My children along with all of the children on the North Slope give me great hope for the future.

I was born and raised in Utqiagvik, I was raised alongside my sister by my Aaka, Fannie Kuutuq Akpik, a lifelong educator and mentor for the Inupiat Education community. I am mostly a product of the North Slope Borough School District school system, I attended Ipalook Elementary School beginning in ECE, followed by Hopson Middle School, and then Barrow High School through my freshman year when I decided to follow in my Aaka's foot steps and graduated from Mt. Edgecumbe High School in Sitka, Alaska in 2009. Upon my graduation I moved back to Utqiagvik and began attending Ilisagvik College, where I am currently a student pursuing my Bachelor's degree.

In August 2010, I began working for the North Slope Borough School District and worked in a variety of capacities on and off for the last nearly 9 years. The reason I decided to apply for the position then is the same reason I am submitting my letter of interest to you today - I wanted to support an education system that I believe in and contribute to the District's Mission and Vision.

While employed by the School District I served in a variety of capacities: Personnel Assistant I, Personnel Assistant II, Home/School Facilitator at Hopson Middle School, Secretary III at Barrow High School, School Board Secretary, Human Resources and Benefits Manager, Coordinator of Human Resources and Benefits, and finally Director of Human Resources. In my various capacities I had the honor to work alongside four Superintendents, the Board of Education (including past and present School Board Members), and, most importantly, I had the opportunity to work alongside students, parents, teachers, paraprofessionals, maintenance workers, cooks, assistant principals and principals.

As an employee, I gained an intimate knowledge of the inner workings of the District. In each position I gained new knowledge and experience, from being a School Secretary to my most recent position as the Director of Human Resources. I served on the district negotiating team during the last collective bargaining agreement process with teachers, I have contributed to the fulfillment of the Strategic Plan and have led sessions at one of the past education summits. I have close knowledge of School Board Policies, both negotiated agreements and other governing documents and worked directly with enforcing those governing documents. I have participated in building budget scenarios and their presentation to the Board of Education, as well as recruiting and retention plans for North Slope teachers. One of my most rewarding experiences as the Director of HR was when I had the opportunity to stand alongside a short staffed plant manager and an itinerant cook in Nuiqsut, serving school lunch and washing dishes (with a food worker card, of course.) I feel that all of these experiences reinforce that regardless of the role, I am driven to helping our schools and students.


Currently, I serve as the Executive Director of Human Resources for Ilisagvik College, and while I am no longer with the School District, my passion for education clearly hasn't changed. I view my role at the college as an extension of the work I was previously performing, serving the same residents and communities in the pursuit of education. I also serve as an appointed member on the North Slope Borough Personnel Hearing Board.

As a result of those collective experiences, I believe I have a keen understanding of the policies, roles and functions of the various department of the North Slope Borough School District which will allow for a quick comprehension of issues that will be discussed at the Board Level allowing me to actively contribute in an effective manner toward a common goal. I believe in the power of collaboration and understand the importance of the responsibilities of the Board of Education. If appointed to Seat C, I fully intend to run again in the fall and hope to serve the communities of the North Slope in the long term.

Again, I am very excited about the opportunity and eager to meet with the Board of Education in the near future.

Quyanaqpak for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Robyn Nayyuq Burke