

From: Colin Rice <crice@ccsd.k12.ak.us>
Subject: Prom Proposal
Date: April 3, 2021 at 12:18:28 PM AKDT
To: Chris Reitan <creitan@craigschools.com>
Cc: Kim Brand <kbrand@craigschools.com>

Dear Mr. Reitan,

As you may or may not know, since I am the vice president of the junior class, I have been put in charge of getting a prom going, and that is why I am the one sending you this proposition. We have a joint committee between the sophomore and junior classes, and in our meetings, we have come up with a sketch mitigation plan and a basic plan for prom. Now we are bringing this to you. We thought we should give you some reasons as to why we think we should have a prom in our school even though there are the obvious concerns of covid, which has already canceled so many things over the past year. So here are a few reasons.

Starting off with sports, we have been able to have them throughout the entire school year. We have had cross country, volleyball, basketball, and now wrestling season is starting. Our volleyball and basketball games had large crowds of people spectating. They also involved close contact between our players without masks, not just among themselves, but with players from other communities. Wrestling involves even closer contact between players and is still going to happen. Our players have even traveled to other communities and played there. None of these games or trips have led to any spreading events between both players and spectators. Our island also has such a low case number in general even after winter and spring break. If we are able to have these sports, then why shouldn't we be able to have a dance involving just our students?

Another point is the fact that our students spend the entire school day five days a week with each other. These classes are between 45 and 90 minutes long. There have not been any spreading events in the school, even with all this exposure. We also see each other outside of school very often, most of the time without such social distancing restrictions, and there still haven't been any spreading events with our students. Since we see each other on the daily already, how much more risk is there for covid to just have a prom? We will be exposed to each other just as often with or without an official dance.

There is also a large amount of student support for a prom to happen at the school. As you can see from the petition attached below, almost 60 students at our school have signed in support of prom. Every member of our student council has signed in support. We can safely say that our student body wants this. We, specifically our seniors this year, do not want to have a repeat of last year, where our seniors in the class of 2020 did not get a prom. They missed that opportunity, and we are trying not to do that to these seniors or our student body in general. Why should we put our seniors of 2021 through not having the opportunity of attending a prom if we don't have to?

Having a prom this year would be a serious morale booster for our student body, especially our seniors who won't have the chance to go to prom next year. We already did not have a homecoming this year, and because of covid, we have missed so many other things. We have traveled way less for sports than we have in the past, and the ACDC team did not get to travel to state, having to join virtually. Because of the undeniable social impacts of covid for all of us, not having an official prom would just be another blow, even if it doesn't seem that important.

We are willing to have rules for the prom. As you can see attached below, we have already sketched a mitigation plan that can be updated in whichever way that is necessary. This is a written request to be permitted to have an official prom. To let us have a dance and sort of feel like normal high school students, which is a feeling that has been quite lacking since this pandemic started. We would much prefer to have an officially sanctioned prom at the high school over having an independent prom at a private location without official oversight. But whatever happens, we will have a prom, one way or another. This is an opportunity for you to give our student body, and more importantly our seniors, something. The ability to feel almost normal for a night.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Colin Rice
Vice President of the Junior Class
Head of Prom Committee

