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October 22, 2024

North Slope Borough School District Board of Education
829 Aivik Street
P.O. Box 169
Utqiagvik, Alaska 99723

RE: Letter of Interest for NSBSD Board of Education Seat F

Dear President Burke and Members of the Board of Education:

Please accept this letter as my letter of interest for the North Slope Borough School District Board of Education Seat F.

My name is Qaiyaan Harcharek. I am very interested in serving once again on the Board of Education. The children of the North Slope are very important to me and I view the role of the Board of Education as critical to their success. Please allow me to sum up my previous tenure on the Board of Education

I was first elected to the School Board in 2014. I was re-elected twice and served until 2023. Before my departure from the Board in 2023, I was the senior board member in terms of consecutive years of service which was nine years. During my years of service, I served as Board Clerk in 2014 and 2015 and Board President in 2016 and 2017 and again in 2021 and 2022.

During my tenure I took my role very seriously and served on various Board Committees including the Education; CIPM/Architecture; Curriculum; Legislative; Negotiation; School Safety; and Policy Review Committees.

I am very passionate for the Inupiaq ways of life, philosophies, history, language, and interconnectedness with all living things. This philosophy underpins the Iñupiaq Learning Framework which I supported fully in its development and will continue to do so if selected. I sincerely believe that the wellbeing of our children, being mentally and physically healthy, is founded on being culturally grounded. The continued progress in the implementation of the Iñupiaq Learning Framework is vital to our children's wellbeing. In addition, the Iñupiaq Language Program is critical in the development of identity and have advocated for and supported it and would continue to do so.

I understand that many new in-school programs that address mental health are now being initiated and commend the district for moving in that direction. If selected I would support these efforts in every way possible. The mental wellbeing is at the forefront of my personal mission and vision for the district.

I have also volunteered for many years at the schools to demonstrate trapping and skinning techniques; whaling process and gear; and overall cultural identity.

I humbly ask for your support in choosing me to fulfill the North Slope Borough Board of Education seat F.

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Qaiyaan Harcharek