

March 18, 2021

North Slope Borough School District
PO Box 169
Barrow, AK 99723
board.secretary@nsbsd.org

Dear NSBSD Board of Education,

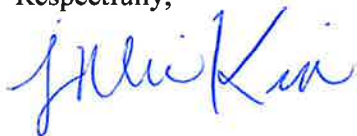
When considering whether I would submit a letter of interest for School Board Seat F, I asked myself to consider what my motivation is behind wanting to become a School Board member. What motivates me, first and foremost, is the children. Then, it is the School Board's potential to impact positive change. Undoubtedly, the Board carries an enormous responsibility, playing its hand in determining the future of our region. I believe education is the baseline to all our levels of understanding, tolerance and how we operate as a society. It is the gateway that leads us, as individual communities and as a region, to greater powers of self-determination.

My education related history and involvement, starts here in Barrow. From ECE3 to 12th grade, I was educated within the NSBSD's schooling system. In 2011, I graduated from BHS as co-valedictorian and went on to complete my bachelors at the University of Washington (UW). While obtaining my BA, I also minored in Education and Law. The education program at UW, which focused heavily on diversity and multiculturalism, helped shape my views and opinions surrounding the many complexities of education. During my time at UW, I was given the opportunity to tutor at schools that were predominately low income, and it was my collective experiences in college that inspired my desire to work with and for the youth in an influential and impactful capacity. A year after graduating, I was given the opportunity to work for the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council, where I worked directly with high school youth from all North Slope communities. Through my role, I was able to incorporate an educational piece that focused exclusively on North Slope history, leaders and community empowerment. I later left this position to travel. In the two years that I spent abroad, I volunteered at a local school in Cambodia, and I taught English at an academy in Korea. My experiences are less traditional and less linear than most, but I view that as one of my greatest strengths.

To the Board, I will bring diversity through race, age and experience. I was born and raised in Barrow, but I am a first generation Korean American. As someone who comes from an immigrant family, I represent a growing demographic of students that the NSBSD serves, particularly here in Barrow. Being a lifelong resident of Barrow, I also understand the socioeconomic issues facing our community and how that impacts our youth and therefore their education. As mentioned above, my motivation is the youth, and as a young adult, I see myself as someone who can effectively bridge gaps that may exist between the students and the Board. While the Board is making decisions that affect students and teachers, it is important that both groups feel seen and heard in the process. In order to make the most effective decisions in the best interest of the students, I believe there is a required level of connection and understanding of their generation and their youth culture. Although my lack of experience serving on boards may be less favorable, I am confident that my life experiences are unique, and as a result I will bring a unique perspective and ideas to the table.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,



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