

**1. Why have you considered running for the school board?**

As I spoke about in my letter of interest, student input matters strongly to me. We are the one's learning here, so it only makes sense that we get a say in things. Being a student is a crucial time in our lives and is something we only get to experience once. With that said, I want to make this time as comfortable, productive, and enjoyable for students across the district. Living here in the North Slope, I was given many useful opportunities that I would not have experienced, had I lived somewhere else. Having said that, I'd like to use my role as student representative on the board to give back to our community, and our youth specifically. If I am chosen to be on the school board this year I'd like to focus on mental health while elevating youth voices across the district. Being in student council most of my school career, I grew a passion for leadership roles. I enjoyed connecting with my peers and working on projects that I was passionate about. I am confident that I have the correct skillset to fulfill my duties as student representative, but most importantly, I hope to make a positive impact and make our schools a better place for students here in the North Slope.

**2. Are you comfortable with the idea of submitting monthly student activity reports compiled from all school sites to the board?**

I am more than comfortable with submitting monthly student activity reports from all sites to the board. I do not see an issue with this in any way. I have spoken with some of the previous student representatives, so I feel that I have some prior knowledge regarding these reports. With that said, I will make sure to put together my reports in a timely manner and submit them to the board each month. Since I am passionate about this role, writing these reports will likely become enjoyable for me as time goes on.

**3. How do you feel your time management is regarding balancing schoolwork, after school activities, and board reports?**

While I've never had to write board reports before, I believe I have become used to balancing schoolwork all while doing after school activities. All throughout middle school I have been a part of our school's student council and volleyball team all while managing my schoolwork, which resulted in good grades. More recently, during my freshman year I balanced my first college course, my schoolwork, along with student council while maintaining A+'s in all my classes. With that said, I am sure taking on reports this school year would not be an issue for me. I understand my responsibility as student representative if I am elected and will make sure to work as efficiently as possible.

**4. How do you plan on successfully communicating with other students across the school district?**

Communicating in person with students across the district would be pretty much impossible. Which is why I think that sending surveys online to each school would be the most efficient way of getting feedback from students. Since students at school have laptops, computers or any other devices provided by their school, they can easily take these surveys on their school device, or even their personal devices if they choose to do so. However, we must take into consideration that not every student will be willing to take a survey that they are not interested in, and we wouldn't want answers that were not sincere. Which is why we can first send them to their teachers, and have these teachers pick out a few students from their classes to take the survey. Knowing how busy some students can be, it is a good thing that surveys aren't usually very time

consuming. This can allow a busy student to take the survey without having it interrupt their schedule too much.

**5. What do you see as the greatest need for students across the district? How would you realistically address this?**

I personally see the improvement of mental health as one of the greatest needs for students across the district. Many students suffer from mental health issues, causing learning to be very difficult. I want to address this issue by working directly with students across the district. While teachers and staff can only make assumptions on how student's mental health should be handled, I feel that only us students truly would know what is best when battling our mental health issues. I plan to reach out to members of student councils from schools across the district, and if there are schools that do not have student governments put together, I will reach out to an advisor or guidance counselor in that school and find students who are interested. My goal is to create focus groups with the students who are willing and talk about what we feel would be best when dealing with the mental health issues that youth here face, and then compile a list of what students feel that they would need, to improve their mental health. While this will be school focused, I also would like to receive feedback on what these students feel could be done in their communities to make their mental health better. At the end of my term as student representative, we will finish up our research within the focus group, and I will turn in my report of the research we discovered during these focus groups to the board. I hope that this information found in our focus group can be used in upcoming years to further improve our youth's mental health, because I feel that having information straight from actual students themselves is the most valuable research we can have. While I understand that this would take a lot of work from both us, and students across the district, mental health is something very personal and important to me, so I certainly do not mind taking on extra work if needed. However, I am sure while working with the students across the district, and the other student representatives, we will be able to accomplish this.

**6. If you were a school board member, how would you improve the relationship between the community and the schools?**

If I were a school board member, I would find a way that would benefit both our communities, and school. Students, (specifically middle and high schoolers) who are interested and willing to, could visit an organization in their community, learn about what happens there, and then volunteer at that organization. Ideally this would be something that could happen as often as every 1-2 months. This would of course need to go through approval between the organizations and schools but would be a great way for schools to work with local organizations and the community, while also giving students an opportunity to see how these organizations operate.

**7. What are your educational or vocational goals after high school?**

After high school, I plan on attending college and then move onto law school afterwards. I hope that upon being on the school board, I will gain experience, and be able to give back to my community, even if it isn't relevant to my career choice.