

NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Nunamiut Wolves Amaqqut

Nunamiut School
P.O. Box 21029
Anaktuvuk Pass, Alaska 99721
(907) 661-3226
FAX (907) 661-6215

Atqasuk Eagles Tinmiaoqait/ch

Meade River School
P.O. Box 91030
Atqasuk, Alaska 99791
(907) 633-6315
FAX (907) 633-6215

Barrow Whalers Agviqsuqtit

Barrow High School
P.O. Box 960
Barrow, Alaska 99723
(907) 852-8950
FAX (907) 852-8969

HMS Wolves Amaqut

Eben Hopson, Sr., Memorial Middle School
P.O. Box 509
Barrow, Alaska 99723
(907) 852-3880
FAX (907) 852-7794

Arctic Foxes Tigiganniat

Fred Ipalook Elementary School
P.O. Box 450
Barrow, Alaska 99723
(907) 852-4711
FAX (907) 852-4713

Kiita Snowy Owls Ukpiit/ch

Kiita Learning Community
P.O. Box 169
Barrow, Alaska 99723
(907) 852-9677
FAX (907) 852-4334

Kaveolook Rams Imnait/ch

Harold Kaveolook School
P.O. Box 20
Kaktovik, Alaska 99747
(907) 640-6626
FAX (907) 640-6718

Nuiqsut Trappers Naniqiaqtuqtit

Trapper School
P.O. Box 89167
Nuiqsut, Alaska 99789
(907) 480-6712
FAX (907) 480-6621

Tikigaaq Harpooners Kapuqtit

Tikigaaq School
P.O. Box 148
Point Hope, Alaska 99766
(907) 368-2662/2663
FAX (907) 368-2770

Kali Qavviit/ch

Kali School
P.O. Box 59077
Point Lay, Alaska 99759
(907) 833-2311
FAX (907) 833-2315

Alak Huskies Qimuktit

Alak School
P.O. Box 10
Wainwright, Alaska 99782
(907) 763-2541
FAX (907) 763-2565



February 28, 2013

Representative Shelley Hughes
State Capitol Room 409
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Representative Hughes:

Thank you for sponsoring House Bill 138. Your sponsorship of this bill indicates your understanding of the difficult position the current deadline for non-retention notices places on school districts. Schools are people businesses. The talent and morale of our teachers is a significant factor in our success with students.

In the North Slope Borough School District, as in other districts in the state, the personnel budget is far and away the largest portion of the district's budget. Again, the largest share of the personnel budget is for teachers as our district prioritizes classroom instruction. In times of flat or declining revenues and increasing costs, districts will need to reduce personnel. In the NSBSD our Board has given us the direction that they do not want to cut teachers if they don't have to. Therefore, ideally we should wait until the end of the budget cycle for decisions on personnel reductions.

The timeline of determining the district's revenue and the current requirement for teacher non-retention are out of order. The current deadline for notice to teachers is March 16. The North Slope Borough Assembly will vote on fiscal allocation to our district on March 28. The Legislature will set the state revenue to all districts in mid-April. In terms of good fiscal management, we presently have to determine our budget for personnel before we know our revenues. This puts our Board and other Board's in a difficult situation. The May 15 date is a more reasonable deadline to have a budget decision done to make informed decisions about teacher non-retention. This provides the district about a month to prepare a recommendation for the Board and for the Board to meet and act. In our district, because of the distances, Board materials are prepared and distributed two weeks before a Board meeting. So, the May 15 date gives the district staff about two weeks to prepare a budget recommendation once revenues are known.

Thank you for your leadership in sponsoring House Bill 138. This approach will help us prepare our budget in a more efficient and responsible manner.

Sincerely,

Peggy Cowan
Superintendent