

February 2, 2017

To the Board of Education

Please accept my resignation as a speech-language pathologist with the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District, effective as of February 3, 2017.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tressa Hidden Friend". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tressa Hidden Friend

Accepted
2/2/17
Cermorelli

January 30th 2017

KPBSD School Board

Mr. Tony Graham

144 N. Binkley

Soldotna, AK 99669

Mr. Graham and School Board Members:

Please accept this letter as my intention to resign at the end of the 2016-2017 school year. My family and I are moving to Washington to be closer to family. I want to thank everyone in the Kenai Peninsula School District for all the support and opportunities you have given me. It has been a pleasure working in many of our schools as an itinerant counselor as well as at Soldotna High School. I am truly grateful to have been a part of this district for eight years and will miss you all.

Sincerely,



Erin Neisinger
School Counselor



*Approved
Cermodeles
2/1/17*

February 1, 2017

Christine Ermold
Human Resources Director
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District
148 N. Binkley St.
Soldotna, AK 99669

Dear Dr. Ermold,

It is with a grateful but sad heart that I write this letter of resignation from my position as a secondary teacher at Susan B. English School. This year marks my ninth year teaching in Seldovia, a span of time that represents more than 20% of my life. Seldovia is unique and beautiful because we're isolated and surrounded by natural beauty, yet that same beauty and isolation makes life here inconvenient and disproportionately hard in some ways. Through living and working in Seldovia these past nine years, I have witnessed the meaning of community as people have drawn together to celebrate good times and help each other through trying times. Seldovia and its school are so special and so dear to me. In many ways, Susan B. English School is unlike any other school in our district, and I have been fortunate to spend my first nine years as a teacher in this environment.

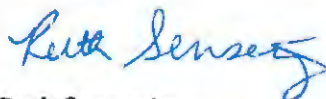
Memories flood my mind as I write this letter to say goodbye to Susan B. English School. I remember a graduating senior who thanked me in her speech for helping her to believe in herself so she could make it to that day and walk across that stage. I also remember riding the subway through New York City with teens who had seldom or never left Alaska, learning together to navigate a big city. Working with students, parents, and staff to fundraise, I have loved seeing the whole community join together to support the kids. Teaching a variety of classes each year that carried me outside my main discipline--from yearbook to digital photography to health to economics--helped me to continually learn and stay flexible as a teacher. Getting to teach a band class and helping kids to further their love of music and perform for their community has made me happy. Coaching Battle of the Books teams and surprising everyone when our tiny school placed among the big schools was fun. Joining with a colleague to take grades K-12 on a field trip to Homer to see the Nutcracker and then coming home and performing our own version of the show for the community was a highlight this year. The memories are countless. I am proud of the students I have had the privilege of working with.

I have been stretched here, and I have grown here. Most of all, I have been happy here.

Nevertheless, after nine years living off the road system, I need to take some time off from teaching to refresh myself by spending time with my family and friends around the country. I have spiritual and physical health goals that I can neglect no longer. Having tried to finish a master's degree in my spare time and finding myself without much spare time, I also plan to spend part of my time off completing comprehensive finals for a degree I started several years ago. Teaching is a job I take seriously, and I want to be able to do it to the best of my ability. At this point, taking time off will help me to be a better teacher in the long run.

Therefore, please accept my resignation, effective the end of the 2016-17 school year. It has been my privilege to teach at Susan B. English School.

Sincerely,



Ruth Sensenig
Susan B. English School
Seldovia, AK

*accepted
Ermold
2/1/17*

cc: Alan Haskins, Principal