

Stacey C. Stone
sstone@hwb-law.com

July 18, 2024

VIA U.S. MAIL AND EMAIL

Kenai Peninsula School District
Clayton Holland, Superintendent
148 N. Binkley Street
Soldotna, AK 99669
cholland@kpbsd.k12.ak.us

Re: Nikolaevsk Charter School – NOTICE OF INTENT TO DEVELOP CHARTER
SCHOOL APPLICATION
Our File No. 7746-33068

Dear Superintendent Holland:

As you are likely aware, our firm represents the group of individuals who intend to develop the Nikolaevsk Charter School Application.

Pursuant to BP 6187, the following information is provided:

1. Name of Charter School: Nikolaevsk Charter School
2. Contact Person for Application: Mariah Kerrone c/o Stacey C. Stone, Esq. and Anna E. Cometa, Esq., Holmes Weddle & Barcott, P.C., 125 N. Willow St., Kenai, AK 99611, (907) 274-0666.
3. Academic Policy Committee Membership. The following Members are identified: Mariah Kerrone, Chandra Caffory, Juliana McConnell, Nicole Donham, and Natalie Thomas.

In addition to the foregoing and pursuant to KPBSD Regulation, it is necessary for a KPBSD BOE Member to serve on the Academic Policy Committee. Given the location of the proposed school, the current Members request that Jason Taurianinen serve as the BOE Member on the Academic Policy Committee.

4. Mission and Goals of the Charter School:

Mission Statement

- Purpose: To deliver a tailored academic program that meets the unique needs of the community.
- Goals: Foster lifelong learning, accommodate diverse learning styles, and integrate subsistence and rural lifestyles with rigorous education.

- Approach: Encourage innovative teaching methods, personalize education, and empower teachers and parents in curriculum management.
- Outcomes: Endow students with marketable skills, promote community involvement, and utilize local resources effectively.

Goals

- Provide individualized, self-paced, and competency-based education.
- Establish high standards for student performance and behavior.
- Offer professional development opportunities for staff.
- Encourage innovation in educational practices.
- Challenge students to achieve academic excellence and develop critical thinking skills.
- Maintain a low student-to-teacher ratio (15:1 or less).
- Promote student engagement in community service.

5. Organizational, Operation and Educational Program:

Calendar: School year from September to April with extended daily instruction and optional summer sessions.

Grades: Kindergarten through twelfth grade.

Curriculum:

- STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics)
- Foreign language, Language Arts, Social Studies, Geography
- Music, Fine Arts, Physical Education, Projects, Home Economics, Internships, FFA (Future Farmers of America)
 - Montessori Curriculum (K-7th Grade): Emphasizes self-directed learning, hands-on activities, and collaborative play, fostering independence and curiosity in younger students.
 - International Baccalaureate Model (8-12th Grade): Offers a rigorous academic framework focusing on critical thinking, intercultural understanding, and preparation for global citizenship through inquiry-based learning and community service.

Special Programs: Middle college program for high school students to earn college credits concurrently.

Outdoor Focus: Community and off-campus gardens, outdoor trips,

Hybrid Learning Option: Students from kindergarten to twelfth grade have access to a hybrid learning model, allowing them to participate remotely when necessary. This flexible approach accommodates travel or other circumstances, ensuring continuity in their education.

Operational Details

- Meals: Nutritious meals provided by meeting Federal lunch program requirements.
- Transportation: Parental responsibility.
- Academic Expectations: Minimum 70% grade average; lower than this will require students to receive provided tutoring and/or referral to specialized services as needed.
- Building: Nikolaevsk Charter School is actively collaborating with a reputable nonprofit organization to secure a suitable facility that meets all regulatory codes and requirements necessary for operation as a school.
 - Our partnership ensures diligent adherence to all educational facility standards, providing a safe and conducive environment for learning.
 - Plans are underway with a secure location that will serve as the future home of Nikolaevsk Charter School, reflecting our commitment to delivering a reliable and sustainable educational infrastructure.

Admission and Enrollment

- Admission: based on a lottery system.
- Priority for Nikolaevsk Area: Nikolaevsk Charter School prioritizes enrollment for students residing in the Nikolaevsk area to ensure accessibility and support for local families.
- Continuous Enrollment: Until graduation or voluntary withdrawal.
- Sibling Enrollment: Accepted at any time, including foster siblings.

Given the foregoing, and pursuant to Board Policy, we anticipate that as soon as practicable, but within 30 days of this letter, you will arrange for a meeting during which the content of this intent form will be discussed. Time is of the essence, particularly given that it is recommended that the discussion meeting occur prior to development of the application.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact our office. In addition to the mailing address included above, the following emails are provided Stacey C. Stone, Esq. (sstone@hwb-law.com) and Anna E. Cometa, Esq. (acometa@hwb-law.com).

Sincerely,

HOLMES WEDDLE & BARCOTT, P.C.



Stacey C. Stone
Anna E. Cometa