



# KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Human Resources Department

148 North Binkley Street

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Phone (907) 714-8888 Fax (907) 262-9645

September 5, 2024

Dear Mr. Meuninck,

The ongoing challenge of affordable housing for teachers and school staff in Seward has become a pressing issue. This concern affects both current educators and prospective employees, making it difficult for the District to attract and retain the quality staff essential for student success. Over the past few years, the impact of the housing crisis has been significant. In the 2022-2023 school year, four teaching positions were turned down due to housing difficulties. This was followed by six positions turned down in the 2023-2024 school year, and so far in the 2024-2025 school year, three positions have been declined.

Many residents, including all three of the District's principals, face similar challenges and currently do not live in permanent housing. Some individuals have to get creative with their living arrangements. Seasonal housing options are often available, but their move-in and move-out dates frequently do not align with the school year, forcing people to constantly relocate. Others live in trailers, campers, or fifth wheels, but finding a place to park these mobile homes—where they are protected from the elements—can be as costly as traditional rent. Additionally, the expense of heating these mobile homes adds further financial strain.

This situation disrupts the District's ability to maintain stable staffing and discourages talented individuals from joining the community. Educators are vital to the community, and it is crucial that they have access to affordable housing. The current lack of options burdens them financially and impacts their ability to fully focus on their roles. When the District's schools thrive, so does the community. Quality education attracts families, supports local businesses, and creates a positive environment where everyone benefits. Ensuring that educators have stable and affordable housing is key to building a stronger, more vibrant Seward.

Addressing this challenge and exploring solutions that will make a real difference for educators is a crucial step. The proactive approach in initiating this discussion demonstrates a strong commitment to supporting the schools and the community. Considering practical solutions, such as increasing affordable housing units, exploring partnerships for dedicated educator housing, or improving options for mobile housing, is essential. By prioritizing this issue, the District will take an important step toward enhancing the quality of life in Seward.

Thank you for your dedication and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nate Crabtree".

Nate Crabtree, Executive Director of Human Resources  
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District