

# *K-Beach Elementary School*

*1049 Poppy Lane - Soldotna, AK 99669*

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*Janae Van Slyke, Principal*



Dear Legislators,

K-Beach Elementary School Site Council, comprised of school administration, staff, parents, and community members, are writing on behalf of our wonderful students to support House Bills 272 and 273 and Senate Bill 111. We recently met with our local senator, Senate President Peter Micciche, to discuss our concerns related to education and how the lack of funding has impacted our students. Thank you for giving your attention to the serious nature of the financial condition of the schools within the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District.

K-Beach Elementary is located halfway between Kenai and Soldotna, and we serve approximately 400 students in kindergarten through sixth grade. Our staff, students, and families are extremely proud to be a part of our "Caribou Herd". Our community takes the education of young Alaskans seriously. The K-Beach Site Council supports SB 111 as we know that teaching foundational reading skills will prepare students for career readiness, which ultimately helps sustain our state's economy long-term.

Alaska is unique in that many schools are not part of a traditional road system. The cost of transporting goods, heating buildings, and supplying rural communities with basic necessities has increased since 2016, while the BSA has not. This requires cuts to be made – often human resources – leading to increased class sizes, loss of extracurricular activities, and the reduction or elimination of intervention programs, which are a lifeline for our at-risk students. Without proper funding, fulfilling the requirements of SB 111 will not be possible. We urge you to vote for House Bills 272 and 273 before the school districts in our state reach a crisis level.

We appreciate your support to help continue many of the wonderful things we provide for our students at K-Beach Elementary. Our students' learning is of the utmost importance.

Thank you,

K-Beach Elementary Site Council:

Janae Van Slyke, Principal

Elizabeth Kvamme, Assistant Principal

Andrea Hakkinen, Interventionist

Jena Kruzick, Parent

Robert Ross, Community Member

Bill Vedders, Third Grade Teacher

Other Attendees:

April Kaufman, Kindergarten Teacher

Pam Lazenby, Grandparent

Patti Truesdell, School Board Member