

**Blankenship, Johni**

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**From:** Mike & Monica Frost [mfrost@gci.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 07, 2009 9:13 PM  
**To:** pa12gary@hotmail.com; psprague@acsalaska.net; akjfischer@hotmail.com; hvsmalley@yahoo.com; cpierce@gci.net; gsuperman@gci.net; rlms@ptialaska.net; millimom@xyz.net; Assembly/Clerk, Office; Carey, Dave; Peterson, Donna - Supt.; DJones2@KPBSD.k12.ak.us; SAtwater@KPBSD.k12.ak.us  
**Subject:** Comments to Assembly

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Assembly this evening. Following are the comments that I made:

GOOD EVENING ASSEMBLY MEMBERS AND MISTER MAYOR,

I WANT TO START BY THANKING EACH OF YOU FOR YOUR FUNDING AND SUPPORT OF EDUCATION OVER THE YEARS. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT OUR BOROUGH HAS ONE OF THE FINEST SCHOOL SYSTEMS IN THE STATE OF ALASKA. THAT IS A CREDIT TO YOUR EFFORTS, THE EFFORTS OF THE FINE PEOPLE OF OUR BOROUGH AND THE EXCELLENT STAFF AT OUR SCHOOLS AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICES.

THIS IS ONE OF THE REASONS THAT MY FAMILY AND MANY OTHER FAMILIES HAVE CHOSEN THIS AREA AS OUR HOME.

**THE BOROUGH GOVERNMENT CAN HAVE NO GREATER CAUSE THAN TO PROVIDE THE BEST EDUCATION POSSIBLE FOR OUR CHILDREN.** THIS BOROUGH GOVERNMENT HAS OVER THE YEARS PROVIDED THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF FUNDING POSSIBLE FOR OUR SCHOOLS AND THE RESULTS ARE EVIDENT.

OVER THE PAST WEEK I HAVE SPOKEN WITH DOZENS OF INDIVIDUALS IN OUR COMMUNITY THAT ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF NOT PROVIDING THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF FUNDING POSSIBLE FOR OUR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION. THESE ARE HARD WORKING PEOPLE THAT ARE BUSY EVERY DAY WORKING TO PROVIDE AN HONEST LIVING FOR THEIR FAMILY AND SPENDING THEIR EVENING HOURS WITH THEIR CHILDREN TO FURTHER THEIR DEVELOPMENT.

THESE ARE NOT THE VOCAL MINORITY THAT ARE SEEN WITH PETITIONS AND BALLOT INITIATIVES OUTSIDE LOCAL STORES. YOU DON'T OFTEN HEAR FROM THESE FOLKS ON THE RADIO OR EVEN IN LETTERS TO THE EDITOR. THEY ARE BUSY DAY IN AND DAY OUT MAKING THIS A BETTER COMMUNITY BY WORKING HARD, PAYING THEIR SHARE OF TAXES AND DEVOTING THEIR LIVES TO THEIR FAMILIES.

NO ONE IN THIS BOROUGH LIKES TO PAY MORE IN TAXES, NOT ME OR ANYONE ELSE THAT I HAVE SPOKEN WITH OVER THE PAST WEEK. WE DO HOWEVER APPRECIATE THAT THERE IS A COST TO MAKING THIS A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE AND RAISE A FAMILY.

PLEASE RECOGNIZE THAT WE, AS A COMMUNITY WILL REAP THE REWARDS OF OUR EFFORTS IN THE FUTURE AS THE STUDENTS OF TODAY GROW INTO PRODUCTIVE ADULTS IN OUR SOCIETY WITH A SOLID EDUCATION TO STAND UPON.

WHAT YOU MAY SAVE TODAY BY NOT FUNDING OUR SCHOOL DISTRICT TO THE MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE BY STATE LAW; YOU WILL INEVITABLY PAY FOR MANY TIMES OVER IN THE FUTURE WITH MORE CHILDREN THAT ARE LEFT BEHIND, THAT BECOME LESS PRODUCTIVE ADULTS AND ARE POSSIBLY LOST TO A DIMMER FATE.

4/16/2009

I BELIEVE THAT OUR SCHOOL DISTRICT IS DOING AN EXCELLENT JOB FOR OUR CHILDREN WITH THE MONEY THAT IT IS PROVIDED. I ASK EACH OF YOU TO THINK OF OUR FUTURE AS YOU REVIEW AND MOVE FORWARD WITH FUNDING OUR SCHOOLS. **PLEASE FUND OUR SCHOOLS TO THE MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE AND PROVIDE THOSE ADDITIONAL TOOLS THAT WE CAN TO HELP EACH CHILD ATTAIN THEIR MAXIMUM POTENTIAL.**

THANK YOU AND GOODNIGHT.

Mike Frost  
248 W. Corral Ave  
Soldotna, AK 99669  
260-5849

4/16/2009

**Blankenship, Johni**

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**From:** Stephanie Jones [midnightsun032000@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, April 09, 2009 9:04 PM

**To:** Carey, Dave; Chumley, Hugh; Wilcox, Susan; Golden, Bonnie; pa12gary@hotmail.com; hvsmalley@yahoo.com; gsuperman@gci.net; psprague@acsalaska.net; cpierce@gci.net; rlms@ptialaska.net; akjfischer@hotmail.com; bsmith@xyz.net; millimom@xyz.net; Blankenship, Johni

**Subject:** Funding to the cap

My name is Veronica Jones. I'm a sixth grader at Nikolaevsk School. I have heard that you are considering reducing the funds for the District. I certainly and fully disagree with what you want. I respect your thinking but taking away the funds from schools may force several schools to close. Right now there is hardly enough students to support the staff at my school. Imagine, if you take the funding away our school might close. We only have 70 students and 6 teachers. In my classroom there is 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> graders in the one classroom. What we need is more not less teachers. If you take away funding we will lose both teachers and students. In fact if you keep the funds there's a possibility that in the future our school can grow! We could have more staff and students. I'm not telling you to not take away funds I'm asking you not to, for the sake of all of the students and staff of all the schools in the District. I'm sure most of the staff and students agree with me, and feel the same. Please think hard and long about the funds. Thank you for listening to my speech.

Sincerely,

Veronica Jones

P.O. Box 5033

Nikolaevsk, Ak 99556

4/16/2009

## Blankenship, Johni

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**From:** rspmoore2@ak.net on behalf of The Moores [rspmoore2@ak.net]  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 11, 2009 8:58 PM  
**To:** pa12gary@hotmail.com; hvsmalley@yahoo.com; gsuperman@gci.net; psprague@acsalaska.net; cpierce@gci.net; rlms@ptialaska.net; akfischer@hotmail.com; bsmith@xyz.net; millimom@xyz.net; Blankenship, Johni  
**Subject:** Education funding

Dear KPB Assembly Members and Mayor Carey:

"Our children are worth our FULL support . . . "

LaDawn Druce stood for many educators, parents, and community members as she spoke these words at the last assembly meeting. I began my Alaskan education career in rural Alaska in 1981 and have dedicated the last 28 years of my career to educating youth in Alaska through high schools, adult ed programs, and post-secondary institutions. For the past 12 years as a school counselor at Soldotna High School, I have observed first-hand the impact funding challenges have had on our schools and, more importantly, on the youth of the Kenai Peninsula.

As long time educators in the state of Alaska, my husband and I would like to encourage the Assembly to continue full funding (to the cap) for education. Alaska's future is in all of our hands - our full support is most important. Thank you for your efforts.

Sara R. Moore  
Counselor, Soldotna High School

Robert M. Moore  
Teacher, Soldotna Middle School

4/16/2009

**Blankenship, Johni**

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**From:** Belinda Espy [b\_espy@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 16, 2009 8:15 AM  
**To:** pa12gary@hotmail.com; hvsmalley@yahoo.com; gsuperman@gci.net; psprague@acsalaska.net; cpierce@gci.net; rlms@ptialaska.net; akfischer@hotmail.com; bsmith@xyz.net; millimom@xyz.net; Blankenship, Johni; Carey, Dave  
**Subject:** Espy letter, copied and pasted

I'm guessing my word processing program may not be compaitable with some of yours. I apologize for flooding inboxes, but I feel what I have to say is very important.

Dear Borough Assembly Members and Mayor Carey,

My name is Belinda Espy, and I am writing to you as a resident of this borough and as a teacher in the school district. This summer is an exciting time for me because I will be getting married and looking to start a family in the near future. I am a person who chooses to live in this area because I love it here and have faith in the successfulness of our future. I also live here because I like my job and believe that my impact will spur individuals who can develop smart solutions to the problems that we are facing today in our community and nation.

As an educator, expectations for my school, students, and our Borough, are heightened every year. Not funding education to the cap is an action that does not support our students and the future of our borough. This is an especially detrimental recommendation at a time such as this. Within the next three to five years, 40% of our teachers will retire. The only teachers that will be recruited into this area are teachers, such as me, that love it here and are dedicated to education of the students that live here. They will not do it for the money or the nonexistent retirement plan. Failing to fund education to the cap could potentially cut my job and the jobs of many others. Cutting new positions and teachers will negatively impact our borough. I believe it is critical to learn from the experienced teachers around me so that when the new hiring boom occurs, I can be a leader that holds our schools together and secures the future of our borough through providing our students with a quality education. Funding education at levels below the cap allowed by law will influence the decisions my husband and I make for our family, which will in turn impact the future of our borough. Questions we are forced to explore as a result of the low priority placed on education as revealed by below -the- cap funding include:

- Can we afford to have a house in this borough with my potential job cut?
- Will we raise our children in a borough that is cutting their education?
- Will teachers come to a borough where class sizes are high and incentives low?
- How will educators increase students learning with a decrease in funding?
- How will the borough maintain student learning in the future if good teachers move elsewhere?

As a tax payer and resident of this borough, I ardently support the full funding of schools. Assembly members are being misguided by a vocal minority if they think that all residents support below the cap funding as a means to a tax break.

4/16/2009

Respectfully,

Belinda Espy

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4/16/2009