

April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022

Honorable Mayor Cremata and Assembly Members,

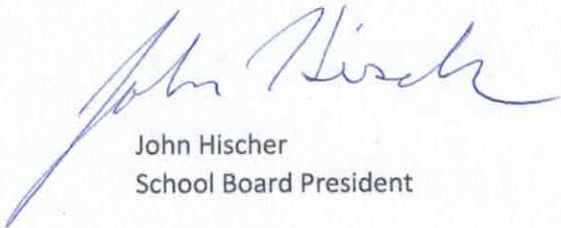
I first would like to thank the Mayor and Assembly for their long standing support for the Skagway School District. The Municipality of Skagway has always valued education and this value has led the Skagway School District to be recognized as the highest achieving school in the state over the past several years.

This year, due to the misaligned fiscal years between the Municipality of Skagway and the Skagway School District, the district did not accurately predict what that maximum local contribution would be. This is an issue I know the school administration and the Municipality are working towards correcting in the future. This has led to the possibility that the Municipality, for the first time in my memory, to not fund to the maximum contribution level. Part of Skagway's support of education has come in the form of always funding the maximum local contribution. I have been on the school board for the last 10 years, and this is something that all past Mayors and Assembly Members have honored. I ask for your support in continuing this tradition of support by funding the maximum local contribution.

Dr. Coughran has outlined what the district has planned for this additional money which includes financial bonuses for employees and much needed curriculum materials. The financial bonuses are an important part of this discussion. The staff members of the Skagway School District have worked through this pandemic and educated our children without missing a step. The students of Skagway have continued to be the highest achieving students in the State of Alaska during this pandemic while many other districts have struggled to maintain grade level proficiency. This high level of professionalism and dedication during the worst crisis in public education history needs to be recognized. Funding to the maximum local contribution level will enable the district to recognize the staff in a meaningful way while helping staff offset rising inflation and the cost of living in rural Alaska.

The Skagway School Board has always taken its responsibility as stewards of the people's money seriously and has a long record of making sure taxpayer money goes to the best education in the State of Alaska. I ask for your continued support by funding to the maximum contribution level.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Hischer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

John Hischer  
School Board President