

Rod Morrison
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September 12, 2018

To: Valdez City Mayor and City Council

I am submitting this letter of interest to serve as a volunteer member of the CPAC Committee.

I moved my family to Valdez in July of 2002, to accept a job as the principal of George H. Gilson Junior High School. My daughter, attended the schools for her entire K-12 education. My son was born in Valdez, and he is currently a freshman at Valdez High School. I am currently in my 17th year as an administrator in the Valdez City Schools, and I plan to finish my career in Valdez. Additionally, I am currently a partner in one small business, Panorama North, and I own and operate another small business with my wife, Alaska Balsamics, in which we started last fall.

I attended the Comprehensive Community Workshop on Tuesday, September 11, 2018. I noticed a couple of missing pieces in the presentation. I believe I can add a positive voice in moving the process forward. One area, that wasn't addressed was education. Not only Pre-12, but also post secondary education. I have been in Valdez long enough to notice that prospective business owners and families generally want to ensure that the location they move to, can offer a solid education for their families, as well as appropriate training and certification programs. The other area that I did not see addressed, was a strand for wellness and appropriate medical care. These are two areas that need to be addressed.

As a small business, owner it is important to me that Valdez is "business and development friendly." Working at the school I often hear concerns from parents and the "hurdles" they have to overcome to make anything happen in Valdez.

Here is a brief biography about myself.

I graduated from high school in 1985. I completed my undergraduate program at Central Washington University, and I have a Masters Degree in Educational Technology from City University. I completed my certification for Education Administration from Heritage College, and I have 26 years of experience as a professional educator; teacher, coach, and administrator.

In my 17 years living in Valdez, I have worked closely with the City of Valdez in the planning, educational specifications, bonding process, budgeting, planning and construction of the new Gilson Middle School.

Additional Information

- Six years as the Region III Representative for the Alaska Secondary Principal Association
- Two years as President of Alaska Secondary Principals Association
- Two years as Past-President of President of Alaska Secondary Principals Association
- Two years as President of the Alaska Council of School Administrators
- 2008 Named Middle Level Principal of the Year for the State of Alaska

I have seen many changes in Valdez and the state of Alaska as well. Valdez is my family's home, and I have a vested interest in the development and planning of the city of Valdez.

If you have any questions, I would encourage you to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rod Morrison", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rod Morrison