



# KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Board of Education

Joe Arness, President

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Dave Carey, Borough Mayor  
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Re: Homer High Track Replacement

Greetings,

It has come to our attention that an ordinance will be put forward to fund the replacement of the Homer High School track through a direct appropriation from the Borough. We have been informally asked to comment on such an action. At its regular meeting on October 17, the Board of Education informally discussed this subject and then adopted a motion which asked me to write this letter.

While we all recognize the urgency of the replacement of the track in Homer, many questions are raised by such an action, and we would like to pursue some of those questions before the Borough takes such a step. Currently, there exists a process by which the decisions are made relative to which, and in what order, maintenance projects are completed. While we are generally confused about how that actually happens, we have been led to believe that such a process exists. Departing from that process is a step which we believe should be done thoughtfully and carefully.

We would like to propose/request the establishment of a working group which would consist of 3 members of each of our organizations, along with a couple of interested public citizens and the director of maintenance from both the Borough and the School District. This group would thoroughly review how capital projects are funded and completed under the current system, and then potentially make suggestions for more efficient/transparent methods to utilize in the future.

We can all be proud of the way this Borough and School District have maintained our facilities in the past. However, it is clear that some aspects of that maintenance have been overlooked/not funded. We believe that a transparent process which involves both of our respective organizations is a good first step in identifying if there are problems. We do not believe that School District maintenance projects should become part of a political process which is open to the vagaries of public pressure.

In summary, we would prefer that you consider establishing this working group prior to taking action on any direct appropriation of Borough funds for a capital project. As always, I am available to discuss this issue if you would like.

Thank you,

Joe Arness, President  
Board of Education