

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD APPOINTMENT APPLICATION

Name of Applicant: Steve Pratt Date: Feb. 6, 2009

Mailing Address: 3115 Seawind Drive, Anchorage, Ak 99516

Residence Address: Same

Telephone: Day: 440.4752 Evening: 345.0032

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ email: akpratts@acsalaska.net

Occupation: Energy/Utility Consultant

Seat Applicant is Applying For: Seat B (Applicant must be at least 18 years of age and a registered voter in the Municipality of Anchorage.)

Have you ever been convicted of, admitted committing, or are you awaiting trial for any crime involving moral turpitude? (PTPC Reg. 20 AAC 10.030)  
 Yes  No If you answered yes, please attach written explanation.

Attachments to this application should include:

- resume
- statement of reasons why the applicant wishes to be a member of the Board
- other information deemed pertinent by applicant

Note: Within 30 days of taking office, the successful applicant will be required to submit a Conflict of Interest form as required by APOC.

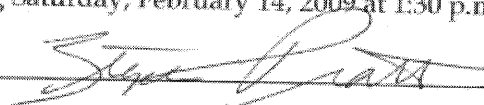
Applications should be mailed to: Office of the Superintendent  
Anchorage School District  
5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd.  
Anchorage, AK 99504-3135

Or hand-delivered to: 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd.

Deadline for applications: All applications need to be received in the Superintendent's office by 5 p.m. on Friday, February 6, 2009.

The School Board will make the appointment during a Special Meeting, convening Saturday, February 14, 2009 at 1:30 p.m.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



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**Candidate Application for Seat B  
Resume and Rationale  
Anchorage School Board  
February 2009**

**NAME:** Steve Pratt

**EDUCATION:** B.S. Economics/Political Science, Univ. of Wisconsin – Madison, various seminars, courses, and programs.

**EXPERIENCE:** Economist, Mayoral Appointments to public bodies, Substitute Teacher across the district, served on two ASD Budget Review Teams, worked in public and private sector senior analytical and senior management jobs, active on Church Council, experience as Sunday School teacher, home owner's association board member, coach for youth basketball and softball teams, Special Olympics Counselor, and Junior Achievement mentor. I have traveled throughout most of rural and urban Alaska engaging a vast array of cultural differences. Since 2002 I have owned a sole proprietorship consulting business dealing with energy, utility, and regulatory issues.

**FAMILY:** Father of two ASD graduates.

**WHAT QUALIFIES ME FOR THE POSITION?**

My family and I have been active and involved in community and youth activities and issues for as long as memory serves. Specific qualifications include:

- Understanding the critical role education plays in preparing our kids (that is, all kids) to become personally and economically self-sufficient and able to embrace all that life has to offer
- Professional experience with public policy drivers, economic and business principles and incentives, achieving consensus, and asking direct questions about objectives, results and accountability
- Flexibility of thought – I know the limits of my experience, expertise, and biases
- Experience in a variety of classroom settings as both a parent and sub teacher
- Experience establishing policy with public boards and commissions and talking to public officials about support for programs and objectives
- Experience with youth and parents from different backgrounds
- I understand the long-range impact decisions have on community support
- I can commit the time – my schedule is fairly flexible

## **WHAT ISSUES MOTIVATE ME TO TAKE ON THIS POSITION?**

All kids are our kids. If our children are to fully participate in the global economy of tomorrow, they need to be grounded in values, competent in academic disciplines, and confident in their abilities. Drop-out rates are alarming even as Alaska has the resources to provide world-class educational opportunities. Last fall I gave a presentation to a local Rotary group indicating Education as one of the critical items Alaska must be ready to continue to invest in, even as the economy weakens (Energy is another). The community has demonstrated strong support for education under the able leadership of the current Superintendent. Continued community support in the face of weakening economic conditions depends upon demonstrating good stewardship of the public purse, wise use of resources, and the delivery of excellent services. My analytical experience exploring policy and fiscal alternatives, combined with the skill-sets of other School Board members and the expertise of education professionals, provide a powerful community resource to ensure that happens.

## **WHAT IS THE GREATEST CHALLENGE FACING THE SCHOOL BOARD AND WHAT WOULD I DO ABOUT IT?**

The greatest challenge will be to improve educational opportunities and graduation rates while maintaining community fiscal support within the framework of ASD's strategic plan. I would advocate continued work on a responsible forward funding mechanism, and then ensuring an adequate balance of short and long-range resource advocacy with policy choices. We will constantly, openly, and honestly, be asking "which programs work, which do not, which can be improved, and what will we do about it?" We may need to revisit the many community recommendations made during the last Budget Review. Anchorage has the means to provide a feature-rich educational experience – we need to make sure we acknowledge community input and make that happen. If appointed to Seat B, I will ask to be appointed to the Audit committee to convince myself that we are following best business practices.

## **WHY SHOULD I BE APPOINTED?**

We have the resources to provide excellent educational opportunities. I provide educators and administrators with the knowledge that I understand they know more than I do about how to go about doing their jobs. I provide parents with the knowledge that I will do everything I can to enable high quality educational programs and options. I provide citizens with the knowledge that resources will be drawn from the community and allocated using principles of best practices and good stewardship. I provide businesses with the knowledge that I want to enhance the business/ASD partnership to advance productive programs.

I cannot assure anyone that they will agree with any of my decisions; what I can assure everyone is that I will approach each issue with an open mind considering the long-term advantages and disadvantages of alternatives, input from community members, other Board members and experts, and the best interest of our children.