

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD APPOINTMENT APPLICATION

Name of Applicant: Jody Smith Date: 2/5/09

Mailing Address: 9000 Little Brook Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99507

Residence Address: 9000 Little Brook Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99507

Telephone: Day: 907-242-5228 Evening: 907-243-3454

Fax: _____ email: jmhagensmith@gmail.com

Occupation: Teacher

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: Jody Smith

Jody Smith

9000 Little Brook Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99507
(907) 242-5228
jmhagensmith@gmail.com

Professional Experience:

Teaching Experience

- **Literacy Support Teacher, Anchorage School District (2004-2008)**
Provided professional development to staff members in the area of language arts, modeled lessons, assisted with assessment and instruction of students in reading and writing; supported the implementation of a new reading adoption, focusing on improving the reading abilities of students kindergarten through sixth grade; served on the language arts adoption committee and Standards Based Assessment and Reporting (SBAR) committee.
- **Government Hill Elementary, Anchorage, Alaska (1999-2004)**
Taught fourth grade bilingual students in a Spanish-Immersion Program; utilized cooperative learning strategies to teach language arts, mathematics, and health; incorporated a balanced literacy program including literature circles, small group focused instruction, read alouds, modeling, decoding strategies, teaching the writing process including the Six Traits of Writing; collaborated with paraprofessionals in an inclusion model of service delivery; monitored student progress using a variety of assessment tools; provided staff workshops on best practices in writing and reading.
- **Redoubt Elementary, Soldotna, Alaska (1998-1999)**
Instructed fifth grade students in all subject areas, employing Writer's and Reader's Workshop, simulations, manipulatives, and hands-on activities to engage students in meaningful learning situations; monitored student progress through weekly correspondence with parents; monitored student behavior with effective classroom management strategies.
- **Mountain View Elementary, Kenai, Alaska (1996-1998)**
Worked with a team of fifth grade teachers to deliver quality instruction in all subject areas, used technology in the classroom, instructed teachers in Web Page creation, Accelerated Reader and Hyperstudio, team-taught with gifted and special services teachers.
- **North Star Elementary, Nikiski, Alaska (1995-1996)**
Instruction and assessment in integrated subject areas, worked with special needs students in the regular classroom, collaborated with technology team, instructed teachers in the use of Hyperstudio, held student-led conferences using electronic portfolios in a fourth grade classroom.

Summer School Teaching Experience

- **McLaughlin Youth Center, Anchorage, Alaska** (Summer 2001)
Instructed sixth through twelfth grade students in language arts with emphasis on meeting standards of high school exit exam.
- **North Star Elementary, Nikiski, Alaska** (Summer 1996)
Tutored fourth and fifth grade students, guided students in creating a Web site after researching local set-net fishing practices.

Awards/Honors

- Denali Team Award Winner, Anchorage School District (Spring 2006)
- Grant Recipient Williams Express and Alaska State Literacy Association (2001)
- Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Sallie Mae Outstanding First Year Teacher (1995-1996)
- University of Northern Colorado College of Education Outstanding Future Educator (Spring 1995)

Related Training

Language Arts Instruction

- 1999 Alaska State Writing Consortium: Presenting the Six Traits to Teachers
- Alaska State Literacy Conferences participant

Professionalism

- Attended Governor's Summit on Early Learning and Education (2008)
- Member of the International Reading Association
- 2001 National Bilingual Education Conference Presenter-Cooperative Learning and the Second Language Student
- Mentoring for Success (KPBSD) Both as first year teacher and mentor teacher

Assessment

- DRA Training
- Analytical Writing Assessment
- Math Performance Assessment
- Curriculum Based Measurement Training

Community Service

President, Child Care Connection (2004-present)
Statewide, non-profit childcare resource and referral agency

PTA member and school volunteer, Trailside Elementary

Education

Master's of Education, Reading, summa cum laude
University of Alaska, Southeast, August 2007

Bachelor of Arts, Social Sciences, Emphasis: Elementary Education
University of Northern Colorado, May 1995

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Why do you want to be selected to serve on the school board?

I am passionate about education and believe that a high quality educational system is a requisite for a healthy community.

You might say education is my family business. My grandparents and parents were teachers in Alaska before me, and for nine years I was an elementary classroom teacher. I also supported teachers as a reading specialist in the Anchorage School District for four years until 2008 – the same year I earned my Master’s degree in Education. Currently, I am on an extended leave of absence from the district to spend more time with my family. If selected, I would resign from my position with the school district.

My son is in kindergarten and my daughter will be a kindergarten student next year. Of course, I have a vested interest in the success of the ASD and like every parent I want my children to experience a world-class education. As a member of the school board, I feel I could help the district achieve that high standard. To be clear, I feel the district is generally doing well, but we can always do better and should always be striving to improve our performance—from the boardroom to the classroom.

As a member of the education community, I feel I have a unique perspective on complex and challenging issues facing our district, including the achievement gap, accountability and assessment, federal legislation requirements, graduation rates, and technology needs—to name a few. I’m confident I am well prepared to help the school board meet these challenges.

I am anxious to contribute to the community by serving on the school board. I will bring with me the perspective of a parent of elementary school children, a former teacher and reading specialist, community member, and taxpayer. I promise to listen to the voices of all stakeholders and value their input. I’m a team player and willing to put in the time and effort to make sound decisions on behalf of the district, our students and the great state of Alaska.