

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD APPOINTMENT APPLICATION

Name of Applicant: Valerie Baffone Date: 2/6/08
Mailing Address: 10606 Flagship Circle, Anch, AK 99515
Residence Address: Same
Telephone: Day: 349-1178 Evening: same cell: 242-7367
Fax: N/A email: val@alaska.net
Occupation: retired
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: Valerie K. Baffone

February 6, 2008

TO: Anchorage School Board

FROM: Valerie Baffone 

RE: Application Statement

I am seeking a seat on the Anchorage School Board because I have the skills, dedication and values to effectively advance the ASD Mission of educating all students for success in life.

The Anchorage School District faces many 21st Century challenges and I will work productively with the Board, administration, educators, parents, students, local/state/federal legislative bodies and our community at large to address these challenges.

I am fortunate to have been able to retire at a relatively young age. I now have the time to dedicate to public service on a larger scale. I have lived in Anchorage for over 30 years and have been involved in a broad range of service organizations (see attached list). This work has given me a great sense of enrichment and allowed me the opportunity to see the needs and concerns of our community from many different perspectives.

My career, education and community service has provided me with a unique set of skills that is very well suited to be an effective member of the Anchorage School Board (see attached resume).

As a recent candidate for public office I have had the opportunity to discuss educational issues with hundreds of individuals in our city. I have a very broad perspective and readiness that will allow me to "hit the ground running".

Please know that I am fully committed to following goals of the Anchorage School District:

- Academic Achievement
- Public accountability
- Diversity in the Workforce
- Measurable Achievement Goals
- Student preparedness for transition into workforce and/or higher education

I have thank you for your consideration and look forward to interviewing with you on February 14th and discussing these matters further.

VALERIE BAFFONE
10606 FLAGSHIP CIRCLE
ANCHORAGE, AK 99515
(907) 349-1178 - HOME
(907) 242-7367 – CELL
EMAIL: val@alaska.net

EMPLOYMENT

Retired – Current

Labor Solutions, Owner
2003 – 2006

Providing training, grievance administration, management, negotiations, facilitation and communication services related to collective bargaining.

Public Employees Local 71
2510 Arctic Blvd.
Anchorage, AK 99503
1986-2002

Positions: Assistant Business Manager, Business Representative and Secretary-Treasurer

SKILLS

Administration:

- Job evaluation and classification system administration
- Planning/Implementation/Evaluation of projects and events
- Managerial accounting
- Coordinate activity of Representatives
- Employee Benefits Manager
- Legislative and Political Activity
- Serve, present and interact with government agencies, boards and commissions
- Staff development
- Development and implementation of work place policies
- Knowledge of state and federal employment related laws (i.e. Workers Compensation, FLSA, PERA, ADA, etc...)

Communications:

- Business writing
- Newsletter publication
- Public speaking – large and small groups
- Media interviews and news releases
- Planning and conducting educational seminars and classes

- Conflict resolution
- Attentive listener
- Facilitator

Collective Bargaining Representation:

- Problem solving through facilitation and mediated discussion
- Informal grievance and complaint resolutions
- All facets of grievance administration consistent with collective bargaining agreement
- Investigation of disputes
- Mediation in conflict resolution
- Workplace safety issues
- Committee structures for various issues
- Staff and employee representative training

Negotiations:

- Spokesperson and team member in collective bargaining negotiations
- Develop proposals and write contract language
- Research and analyze bargaining issues
- Develop and coordinate bargaining committee
- Record-keeping procedures
- Mediation and interest arbitration
- Effective bargaining communication
- Cost analysis
- Impasse and ratification strategies

Arbitration:

- Prepare and present disputes to an arbitrator for final resolution
- Examine and cross-examine witnesses
- Write hearing briefs
- Knowledge of rules of evidence
- Advocate in dispute mediation

EDUCATION

- National Labor College, Silver Springs, Maryland, currently completing thesis project for Bachelors Program with emphasis in education
- University of Alaska, Associate of Arts Degree, Anchorage, 2004
- University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, 1996, Job Evaluation
- George Meany Center of Labor Studies, Silver Springs, Maryland, 1993-1995, Advanced Arbitration, Advanced Negotiating Skills and Strategies, Negotiating and Writing contract Language
- American Arbitration Association, Los Angeles, California, 1998, Grievance Processing

- American Arbitration Association, Seattle, Washington, 1988, Arbitration Advocacy
- Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, Juneau, 1998, Interest Based Bargaining
- International Foundation of Employee Benefits, Employees Benefits Conference 1996 and 1998
- Patrick Henry High School, San Diego, California, 1977, graduate
- Alaska Humanities Forum, Leadership Anchorage Program, 2002
- Illinois Humanities Council, The Meaning of Service, 2005, training in facilitation of group readings and discussions
- Alaska Funding Exchange, 2002, Grant Writing

Valerie Baffone – Past and/or present service with the following community organizations::

Boys and Girls Club, Board member

Great Alaska Schools (aka AK Kids Cont!)

First LEGO League – inspiring youth participation in science and technology.

Anchorage Central Labor Council, President and delegate

United Way of Anchorage

CASA for Children, advocate for abused and neglected children

St. Mary's Episcopal Church- member and volunteer

Alaskans Against the Tax Cap

University of Alaska Alumni

Bayshore/Klatt Community Council

Alaska Nurses Association

Greater Anchorage (Fur Rondy) Inc.

Alaska Humanities Forum, Leadership Anchorage

Anchorage Creek Clean-up Program

Healing Racism

Anchorage Sports Association

South Central Senior Advisory Council

Alaska Common Ground

AWAIC

Political and Government Positions:

Municipality of Anchorage Bidding Review –Board member *
Alaska Workers Compensation Board, Board Member
Alaska Commission on Privatization and Delivery Government Services

Business and Professional Positions:

Alaska Nurses Association, Nurses Professional Practice Committee
Leadership Anchorage Civic Entrepreneur, Alaska Humanities Forum
Anchorage Central Labor Council, President
Health Care Cost Management Corp. of Alaska

Service Organization(s):

Boys and Girls Clubs, Board Member
Vietnam Veterans of America - Alaskan Chapter *
United Way of Anchorage –
Southcentral Senior Services Advisory Council, Board Member
Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for Children
St. Mary's Planned Giving Committee *
(see attached list for additional organizations)

* current position

Special Interests:

Camping, hiking, fishing, cooking, scrapbooking

Mary Hakala
1606 Laurie Lane
Juneau, Alaska 99801
williwaw@earthlink.net
907-780-4640

February 3, 2009

Mr. Jeff Friedman, President,
& Members of the Anchorage School Board,

I am writing in support of Valerie Baffone's application to serve on the Anchorage School Board. I have known Val for about thirty years, first as one of my sister's closest friends, and later as a person I'm glad to call friend.

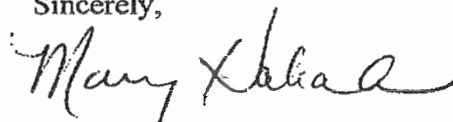
Over the last five years, as I worked with citizens across the state to create a grass roots advocacy network in support of public schools – Great Alaska Schools, previously known as AK Kids Count! - I often spoke with Val about the challenges facing public schools; she was one of the sounding boards I turned to. Our discussions were long and lively, whether discussing education reform, legislative strategy, grass roots organizing, or Alaskan politics in general. It was and is obvious that Val is committed to education and the future of Alaska and Anchorage.

Val has a strength that distinguishes her from many fine, capable people - She is a skilled negotiator who is able to hold her own, yet also able to find common ground with those with different viewpoints. I have been continually impressed how she uses humor and logic to find areas of agreement when at first there seems to be none. I believe this is a skill that will make her an exceptionally good board member and problem solver.

Val has the time, interest and energy to be a fully engaged member of the Anchorage School Board, from day one. Although she does not have children in the public school system, she is a special Aunt to two Anchorage students (one, a 2008 graduate) and has weathered their ups and downs through out their school years. Her past candidacy for House Seat 28 and her door-to-door campaign has also grounded her in the realities & concerns of families and young people in South Anchorage. She is well organized, holds herself to a high standard of integrity, and enjoys talking with and working with diverse groups.

For all these reasons, I enthusiastically recommend Val Baffone for a seat on the Anchorage School Board, and appreciate your thoughtful consideration of her candidacy.

Sincerely,



Mary Hakala



t/ 907-274-0827
f/ 907-272-0292
3701 E. Tudor Rd. Suite 208
Anchorage, AK 99507
www.aknurse.org

July 30, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

Valerie Baffone, operating as Labor Solutions, Inc., provided labor relations consulting/services for the Alaska Nurses Association from March 3, 2003 to June 30, 2006.

Ms. Baffone worked with our leadership in processing grievances and also served as spokesperson for the nurse negotiations team when they bargaining a contract with Central Peninsula Hospital, Soldotna. Ms. Baffone was, and is, an articulate woman. She has an extensive labor relations background and is quite knowledgeable in the field.

Ms. Baffone also has an extensive background in working with community groups. She served as president of the Anchorage Central Labor Council for several years and has been involved in several other community organizations. Her interest in community issues is also evidenced by the fact that she has campaigned as both a candidate for the State Legislature and the Anchorage Municipal Assembly.

We at the AaNA wish Ms. Baffone all success in her future work and community-related endeavors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Dianne O'Connell', is written over a large, light-colored circular mark.

Dianne O'Connell, M.Div.
Executive Director
Alaska Nurses Association

ALASKANS



UNITED

December 19, 2001

RE: Valerie Baffone

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to recommend Valerie for the Leadership Anchorage Program. I have known Valerie for some time, but got to know her quite well during the Alaskans United Against the Cap campaign in 2000. Valerie was a tireless volunteer with many skills and could benefit from a fine program such as the Leadership Anchorage Program. Already a committed advocate for the community, she will undoubtedly blossom with the enrichment of this opportunity. Alaskans United was happy to have such an invaluable volunteer, who diligently worked toward our goal. We are also pleased that she has chosen to continue her association with Alaskans United, as we begin a new campaign to educate the Alaskan voter.

Please consider Valerie Baffone for a slot in Leadership Anchorage. I know that she will bring enthusiasm and commitment to the process.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

Ernie Hall
Statewide Chair,
Alaskans United

P.O. Box 92690
ANCHORAGE, AK 99509

STATE OF ALASKA

Tony Knowles, Governor

Department of Labor and Workforce Development

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

P.O. Box 21149
Juneau, AK 99802-1149
Phone: (907) 465-2700
Fax: (907) 465-2784

December 31, 2001

To Whom This May Concern:

I have had the privilege of knowing and working with Valerie Baffone for 15 years. I know her to be a tireless advocate for the working men and women of Alaska in her roles as both the business agent for Public Employees Local 71 and as president of the Anchorage Central Labor Council.

I am particularly grateful for Valerie's exemplary service as a member of the Alaska Workers' Compensation Board. She educated herself quickly about the intricacies of the workers' compensation law and became a valued member of the board, contributing a great amount of time and knowledge to its deliberations. The board, established under the Alaska State Statutes, reviews and decides issues related to the compensation and retraining of injured workers. The board's importance in determining equity for workers, their employers, and insurers cannot be understated. Its decisions have far-reaching implications for businesses throughout Alaska, and Valerie's participation gives me great confidence in the quality and soundness of those decisions.

From both her professional and volunteer positions, Valerie is already a leader, but I would not hesitate to recommend her for what sounds like an excellent program. I understand the purpose of Leadership Anchorage is to increase leadership effectiveness and help develop a future generation of leadership for the community. I cannot think of anyone that I could recommend more highly for this program than Valerie.

Sincerely yours,



Ed Flanagan
Commissioner

STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF PUBLIC ADVOCACY
ALASKA CASA PROGRAM

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

900 WEST FIFTH AVENUE, #525
ANCHORAGE, AK 99501
PHONE: (907) 269-3500
FAX: (907) 269-3535
www.alaskacasa.org

December 27, 2001

RE: Valerie Baffone

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to bring to your attention that Valerie Baffone was a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer in Anchorage from June 1994 until September 1998. CASA volunteers are community members who are concerned about abused and neglected children, and who are willing to advocate for these children in our child welfare and court systems.

The CASA volunteer's main responsibilities are: 1) to gather and review information about the child(ren) they represent; 2) to monitor the progress of the case; 3) to meet with the child(ren) on a regular basis to answer questions and ascertain how she/he is progressing; 4) to advocate for whatever special services the child(ren) may need; and 5) to make recommendations to the court about what is in the child(ren)'s best interest. CASA volunteers are supervised by Office of Public Advocacy's guardian ad litem staff.

Initially CASA volunteers are thoroughly screened. This includes an interview, orientation, personal reference letters, and criminal and child protection records checks. Following the screening, volunteers participate in 32 hours of core training that covers a variety of topics such as the dynamics of child abuse and neglect; federal and state laws; child development; and communication skills. After completing the training and being sworn-in, the CASA volunteer is assigned to be the advocate on cases involving children who have been abused or neglected. CASA volunteers are also expected to complete a minimum of twelve hours of continuing education each year.

Ms. Baffone was an effective advocate on four cases involving eight children. Ms. Baffone's involvement in these cases resulted in the cases making substantial progress through our often-slow child welfare system. She demonstrated outstanding investigative abilities, established a good relationship with the children, and worked well as a member of the families' treatment teams. Her annual evaluations rated her work in the "above average" to "excellent" range. Ms. Baffone was an outstanding CASA volunteer and a real asset to our program. She is easy to work with in a professional and sometimes adversarial setting, and had good follow-through in her advocacy casework.

I have no reservations in strongly recommending Ms. Baffone as a participant in Leadership Anchorage, and know that she will be a good addition to the program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brenda S. Dickison". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brenda" and last name "Dickison" clearly legible.

Brenda S. Dickison
Director
Alaska CASA Program



A POWERFUL VOICE IN A CHILD'S LIFE.™