

Kelly Lessens

School Board

Kelly Lessens for Anchorage School Board
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November 5, 2020

Dear Anchorage-area students, parents, educators, and community members,

My name is Kelly Lessens and I will be running for Anchorage School Board in the April 2021 municipal election. I am the parent of two elementary-aged children and the cofounder of ASD60. Over the past two years, my collaborative, evidence-based efforts have laid the groundwork for improving elementary student wellness and learning across the district. But looking forward, there's more to do to improve our community's long-term educational outcomes, and I'm ready to work hard on behalf of all of our children.

To this end, I'm announcing "Kelly Lessens Listens," a series of community conversations that I will host this winter on Zoom. On Sunday afternoons from 4:30-5:30 pm, I'm hoping that stakeholders across the municipality will take the time to share their thoughts about public education with me. While you'll hear a little bit from me each time, I mostly want to use this opportunity to learn what matters to you, and why, and hear your visions for the future. Please plan to be engaged and respectful.

Attached, please find the tentative schedule of topics for "Kelly Lessens Listens." To receive a ZOOM invite for any given conversation, please register for that specific session. You'll receive confirmation when you register, but my campaign will send you a ZOOM link for that session two days before the scheduled meeting to mitigate any potential security issues. I'm looking forward to hearing from you!

If you have a pressing topic in mind that you think hasn't been addressed in the attached schedule, please reach out and let me know what you'd like to discuss. Thanks, and I hope you'll join me!

Sincerely,



Kelly Lessens
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Schedule for “Kelly Lessens Listens”

All meetings on Sundays at 4:30 pm, on ZOOM

November 15: [Why does public education matter?](#)

November 22: [Why does preschool matter?](#) What should the future of ASD’s preschool offerings look like?

November 29: [What should the future of ASD’s Elementary schools entail?](#)

December 6: [What supports do ASD’s Middle Schools need to be able to improve?](#)

December 13: [What should the future of ASD’s High Schools look like?](#) How can ASD better prepare students for careers, college, adulthood, and employment?

January 3: [How can we build a more equitable education system?](#) And what could the future of culturally responsive learning look like in ASD?

January 10: [Why does student wellness matter?](#) What policies and structures will optimize student learning and lifelong outcomes?

January 17: [What’s the secret sauce for teacher retention?](#)

January 24: [What are the community’s budget priorities?](#)

January 31: [What is effective in SPED and what needs improvement across ASD?](#)

February 7: [How can ASD’s English-Language Learners be better served?](#)

February 14: [How can we improve IGNITE, Honors, and AP programs, and increase participation?](#)

February 21: [What should the future of ASD’s charter, optional, and immersion programs entail?](#)

February 28: [How can ASD’s mental health services and SEL delivery improve?](#)

March 7: [How do we measure success?](#) How should ASD balance measures of community accountability with the imperative to meet students’ individual needs?

March 14: [What long-term responses to COVID disruptions does ASD need to consider, at this point?](#)

*March 21, March 28, & April 4: Topics TBD