

Date: October 3, 2024  
To: LPSD School Board  
From: Laura Hylton, Finance Director  
RE: October Board Report

## **FY25 Grant Update**

Grants for FY25 are changing and an updated list is attached for the boards' information. BBRCTE has been successful in obtaining several new grants since the spring list the board approved.

COVID grant funds all expired as of 9/30/2024.

## **Foundation Count Period Started 9/30/2024 and runs through the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday in October the 25<sup>th</sup>**

The count is based on enrolled students for the 20-day count. This count is the basis for the Alaska school foundation funding and all State funding for Pupil Transportation and other programs.

## **School Nutrition Program Advocacy**

Alaska School Nutrition Programs Manager, Gavin Northey, is advocating for Alaska programs and provided the following feedback to our communications on school nutrition programs in Alaska.

"This does highlight the need for greater reimbursement in rural Alaska. All schools and agencies participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs in Alaska receive the same per-meal reimbursement rates, however, the cost to serve a meal in western Alaskan communities significantly exceeds the cost to do so in places like Anchorage or Fairbanks. I have had many conversations with officials on the need to trifurcate the rates for urban, rural, and rural-remote communities to better align with the realities of delivering equitable food assistance to Alaskans. If you can, please share the cost of meal service with advocacy groups such as the Alaska Food Policy Council and the Alaska School Nutrition Association as well as directly with your members of congress. As an apolitical organization, DEED is limited as to what it can and cannot advocate; but LPSD may allow you wider latitude to address such issues with both state and federal lawmakers and policymakers."

## **National School Foods Study 2024-2025**

LPSD is participating in the National School Foods Study 2024-2025, I met with our study liaison yesterday and our first meeting on data is scheduled for next week. The overview of the study is attached. Chignik Lake and Perryville have been selected for the study which is great news for LPSD as the costs for operating at those schools is likely the highest due to freight costs.

Staff will be excited to tell our story and advocate for increased reimbursement rates. Legislative advocacy with the Alaska delegation and national School Nutrition Groups is planned throughout the year.

## **Imposter Fraud Information**

Information on imposter fraud is attached from Wells Fargo. Our Business Banker, Jennifer Bump, reports serious imposter fraud incidents in the last week for a school district and a utility customer where check sequence numbers were used to perpetrate really good documents that unfortunately were presented and cashed at banks in the lower 48. Both were in the range of \$20,000 and very little of the funds were recovered.

Bump recommends never publishing check number sequence information or posting online where there is potential for it being hacked. Public entities have a higher risk level for this type of fraud, our information is published they know who the board and key employees are, logo and address information is online, employee names are easy to find. Finding routing numbers, check numbers and vendors is relatively easy. Targeting a vendor to steal a check is from mail is one way fraudsters are able to produce extremely high quality documents to perpetrate fraud. Bump stated, "Information is already going out on checks you issue and mail out, which is why we encourage ACH or card payments to vendors and employees as much as possible. Keeping as much information off the internet as possible is also key".

LPSD uses the Wells Fargo program, Positive Pay, which verifies checks presented for cashing against LPSD provided issued checks. This program is effective in stopping a great deal of fraud.

All changes by vendors or staff to banking information is verified by phone or with a known contact not at the email address the change request came from.

**Financial Report attached.**