



LAKE AND PENINSULA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Date: June 13, 2019
To: Lake and Peninsula School Board
From: Ty Mase
Re: Superintendent's Report – June 13, 2019

18/19 Year in Review

What went well:

Student and Staff Safety – Knock on wood, but we seem to have had a pretty quiet year – no student or staff accidents or fatalities. It just doesn't matter how good a year we have had academically when we lose a student. While there is always room for growth, our sites are talking about and are more focused on safety than ever before.

Subsistence Calendar – Another successful year! It felt much more comfortable this year and not quite as rushed. Students and communities are more engaged and many great programs are planned for this summer (LPSD has 13 students signed up for ANSEP). We are working at getting our waiver from a three-year maximum to a permanent agreement.

BBRCTE – It was a tough Fall with a misstep in leadership, but we kept the ship sailing and managed to secure some sustainable funding for the program. We finished strong with what we anticipate to be a very solid hire with Zach Stenson. Good things await this program!

Experiencing Out – Why haven't we been doing this longer? This program fits our Standards Based Model, our Subsistence Calendar, and values our regional industry and culture – it's a win-win! 13 students experienced out of levels this school year and we are expecting many more throughout the summer.

Allowing all AK Teaching Experience to Transfer In– To my knowledge, we are the only district in the state to allow teachers to transfer in all of their years. This already has paid dividends with hiring this year – we signed two experienced educators from other districts (this would not have happened prior).

Our Challenges:

Tribal Compacting – I honestly don't know what to think about this concept. What worries me is the State's urgency to "throw something together" and what their rationale for this might be. I would like to slow the process down a bit and make sure it is done right. I will be sitting on a committee that will hopefully have a voice in steering this process.

Funding – Hands down the worst part of this job has been waiting to see what the Legislature decides to do to us each Spring. Unfunded mandates, budget cuts, scrutinizing student performance, and the list goes on. It is now May and we are still basing a \$15 million dollar budget on an absolute unknown.

Lake Closing – I hope it isn't so, but if history repeats itself, the Lake will be the fourth school we have had to close. We will proactively work with the remaining families to make sure we are delivering the best education possible to the remaining students.

Educators Leaving Early – This past year, we had one prior to school starting (our first), one after the first quarter and a principal after the first semester. Simply put, this cannot become our norm. We will lean heavily on our tutor program and look for in-state educators to fill our positions with those with experience in Alaska and in our system....

Levelock – One can only hope we have a better year in 19/20. We will have an onsite principal/teacher (Joe Ward) and Rick Luthi will be assisting as well. We will provide as much support as it takes to get the school year rolling and off to a good start.

What is next:

Next year our big innovation/change will be our Online Educational Offerings. We feel confident that this will be in the best academic interest of our kiddos at the small sites. We will keep the board updated throughout the fall on how this program is doing.

Aside from the above, our goal next year is to keep things fairly stable and focus on perfecting what we do. An emphasis will be put on current policies, procedures, resources, curriculum, etc. so we can do better with what we already have.

I look forward to another great year working with this board and our leadership team. I again want to thank the board for your support this year while I dealt with several personal issues. I have been living by the "family first" motto for over a decade now and this year you showed me what that feels like – thank you.