



Date: May 4, 2022
To: Lake and Peninsula School Board
From: Kasie Luke, Superintendent
Re: Report, May 10, 2022


LPSD Clubs

Beyond our LPSD sponsored volleyball, basketball and cross country events, it's been a great year for a variety of clubs to take place across LPSD, engaging our students beyond the classroom. Some of the clubs that took place at sites across the District included:

- Chess (a multiple year club that began regionally during 2020)
- Art (exploring various mediums, art history, traditional, local and world art)
- Local Culture Club (beading, drum making, painting, mosaics, etc.)
- Model building (vehicles, airplanes, action figures, etc.)
- Youth basketball & Youth volleyball!

Bristol Bay Regional Career and Technical Education Program (BBRCTE)



 **Robert Thomas MD**
FAA Physicals • CDL/DOT Exams
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BBRCTE served 272 students across 20 communities regionally. There have been 2013 College Credits earned and 82.5 High school credits earned. Students earned certificates in:

- NCCER Construction Safety
- UA Marine Tech Cert.
- First aid/ CPR
- Emergency Trauma Tech
- Wilderness and Remote First Aid
- Wilderness First Responder
- Wilderness First Responder
- Captain's License/ USCG
- USCG First Aid and CPR
- USCG Life Raft Safety
- FAA Trust Certificate
- AWS-Safety in Welding
- State of Alaska Food Handlers Card

LPSD's Media Presence:

LPSD is in a better place than a lot of District's when it comes to certified teacher vacancies, however we are heading into summer still looking for 3-5 educators. We're really looking at a variety of avenues for reaching teacher candidates in ways that are unique to the world we live in through collaboration with Bristol Bay Media: Nels Ure. Nels will assist with a variety of projects in the year ahead for bettering our communication and meaningful online presence.

- Website/Instagram/Facebook Audit to gain analytical insights
- Recruiting Tik Tok videos
- School Photos & Family Photos for every site in 2022-2023
- Community & lifestyle photos to enhance updating the LPSD website
- Partnerships with staff, students and current community members across LPSD who have a successful online presence

CIP & Major Maintenance

LPSD is working towards compliance to gain access to the State's Major Maintenance and CIP list for potential future funding opportunities. We are not currently compliant, therefore we do not have projects on the current list. We are projecting to meet requirements to meet compliance by August 2023.

2021-2022 School Visits

I was able to visit every school site with the exception of Perryville, which I plan to visit first thing in September. Beyond the opportunity to play on playgrounds with our students, help do dishes after lunch, and steam with local friends, it was wonderful to be accessible in person with listening ears for our school communities. Some key takeaways from my visits were:

- LPSD's Maintenance Team is hugely supportive of our schools and staff, however they are a small team doing what they can with what they have. We will continue to monitor our facilities and the capacity of our maintenance team as we work to keep supporting our sites' infrastructure.
- LPSD's LSACs, parents, Tribes & Cities of our communities are grateful for the opportunity to be heard through the openness of our staff, admin, and School Board. We will strive to keep this culture of communication alive in the year to come. People are eager to lean into offering feedback as we look ahead at LPSD's strategic review of our systems.
- COVID was well mitigated across LPSD through communication with our COVID Committee. Nice job, team!
- We always have room for improvement, reflection, and bettering our practice in the best interest of students. It's been a year of learning and growing in a variety of capacities as our Leadership team shifted, and as we face day to day challenges and successes.

Legislative Update

- **SB 111 & HB 164 Reads Act:** The House Education Committee is to have a committee substitute for SB 111, the pre-K expansion and early learning bill passed by the Senate, ready by mid-week, we're told. This is a major Senate priority and is backed by the governor, but it must get to House Finance soon. House Majority changes for the bill will be in the substitute, we're told, which should help it move through Finance. The Governor continues to state that if the Reads Act is not passed, he will veto any education funding.
- **SB 34 Tribal Compacting of Schools:** The Senate-passed bill setting up demonstration project for five schools to be operated by tribes is advancing in the House. SB-34, passed unanimously by the Senate, is in House Education Committee and will head to the Rules Committee (a procedural step) and to the House floor. It seems very likely this will pass the House given the Senate vote, a House Majority generally led by Democrats, and the influence of rural legislators who strongly support the bill. This would be a step-change in education and a bold experiment. Julie Kitka, president of the Alaska Federation of Natives, told the House Tribal Affairs Committee, which passed SB 34 out on April 27. "We're taking this in baby steps, starting with five schools. The early version of SB 34 authorized five tribally-operated schools but the Senate stepped this back to a more gradual process of the state Department of Education negotiating compact agreements with tribes who apply beginning in March and for agreement to be concluded by 2024 with this is that these will be the first tribally-managed schools operating with state funds and under the framework of the state public education system.

- **HB 272/273 Education Funding:** These two bills currently sit in House Rules. As it stands, we are awaiting the decision of the Rules Committee to schedule it for consideration by the House. Time is of the essence as these bills need to pass the House before moving to the Senate. It is probably a long shot at this point but still very worthy of our advocacy. HB 272 and HB 273 are truly the only way for education funding to begin to account for the increasing costs of operations each year. The BSA has not changed since 2017. As an aside and related to the point of increasing the BSA, the operating budget is currently being addressed in Senate Finance. At present, Senator Stedman offered an amendment of \$60 million outside the foundation for education. The amendment was recently approved. I believe it is worth advocating to the Senate Finance Committee that while we appreciate the 60 million, it does not solve our problem of continuing not to meet our basic costs. Funding outside the formula puts us back to square-1 next year.

- **HB 220 Teacher Retirement:** HB 220 is an act relating to the Public Employees' Retirement System of Alaska and the teachers' retirement system. April 21, 2022 HB 220 passed from the House Finance Committee on a vote of 5-2. This is a historic day. It has been a decade since a bill to restore a pension for all public employees has passed through a finance committee. HB220 will be scheduled for debate and consideration on the House Floor.

(Information from Bradner Leg. Digest, 16-2022 and AASB)