



LAKE AND PENINSULA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Date: December 26, 2019
To: Lake and Peninsula School Board
From: Ty Mase
Re: Superintendent's Report – December, 2019

2019 Fall Semester in Review

BBRCCTE – While we couldn't be happier with our new Director, it was another challenging Fall for CTE. As we expand our course offerings and include more students, we are starting to feel the growing pains. Simply put, some students are not 100% ready for the rigor and structure of the program. We are working on our application process, with a close eye on what it takes to set our students up for success.

Lessons in the Lake – There were times this Fall when we had three different teaching openings (2 in the Lake and 1 in Kokhanok). This has never happened before and we were caught off guard at the severity of the teacher shortage. Lesson learned however, as we vow to stay ahead of the game and aggressively seek teachers. We also need to communicate with our sites the difficulty of late hires.

Nondalton Mix 3 – Congratulations go out to our LPSD Mix 3 Volleyball Champions!

Tanalian Volleyball - Congratulations go out to the reigning Mix-6 State Champions!

X-Country – It's only been a few years since LPSD revived X-Country (2009) and we have quickly become competitive at the State level. This year's LPSD State qualifiers from Port Alsworth and Newhalen represented the district well. We took 2nd in division 3, with 4 runners in the top twenty!

Newhalen School – As we struggle with count in several villages, Newhalen is on the rise. Right now, they have 75 students K-12, with 15 students in preschool. They will be graduating one senior and a projected 7 kinders will be coming in next year.

Literacy 365 Federal Grant – This was an unexpected surprise and one that should greatly strengthen our literacy and library endeavors. \$1.5 million over three years.

Preschool Grant – Amber Kresl’s diligence paid off with a nice \$100,000 State preschool grant being awarded to LPSD. The grant will focus on “designing an effective preschool learning environment (furniture), providing supports for inclusive classrooms, designing and implementing kinder transition plans, and professional development.”

Swivl Technology – We now have this technology at every school site and hope for full implementation very soon. Allowing administrators and other teachers to view classrooms from afar has a ton of possibilities for us.

Staffing – We have had two resignations in Nondalton this Fall and one in Kokhanok right before school started. Last year, we had one prior to school starting, one after the first quarter and a principal after the first semester. We are leaning heavily on our tutor program and looking for in-state educators to fill our positions with those with experience in Alaska and in our system.... Simply put, it is a different world than it was five years ago.

Graduations – We had two success stories this Fall, one a super (super) senior return and finish up his standards to graduate from Newhalen. The other, a Nondalton student pushed through and finished her standards a semester earlier. Congratulations to both of these LPSD graduates!

Levelock Wildfires – Wolf packs, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, earth quakes, anthrax, -50 below weather, and now wildfires. We were fortunate that Levelock was spared this Fall and also fortunate to have such a resilient teaching staff!

Student Teachers / Tutors – Kasie Luke has diligently pursued the placement of student teachers and tutors at our school sites. While an extra set of hands in the classroom is invaluable, these young educators are our first pool to draw from when hiring for the coming year. This Fall we had 4 student teachers and we will have 2 this spring. 10 tutors have been hired and will be on the ground in AK very soon.

PEAK Success – A huge congratulations goes out to our PEAK movers and shakers!

Port Alsworth: LA 84.6%! MA 61.5%!

Nondalton: LA 46.2% (up from 23.1%)! MA 30.8% (up from 15.4%)!

Chignik Lake: LA 75%! MA 75%!

Tribal Compacting – We expect legislation this spring to come from the Governor that pushes for tribal compacting. We are watching closely and working closely with Bryce Edgmon as this idea moves forward

Literature Grant State – When it rains it pours! A huge thanks to all of those who helped write this grant, Moon M., Bill C., Kate C., Amber K., Jim D., etc. It was a team effort which was awarded with a \$850,000 (approx.) grant over the next five years. The grant will focus specifically on professional development in the area of early literacy.

Aileen Lester - Newhalen has held on to a wrestling program through local fundraising and this year their investment paid off. A huge congratulations goes out to freshman Malamute, Aileen Lester for her 2nd place finish at the State Championships!

Funding – While Governor announced, “No Cuts to Education,” we still need to be watching carefully as there are a lot of ways we could be hit financially without open cuts to education.

Online Educational Offerings - We have had some ups, downs and many learning opportunities, but so far, we feel confident that this program is in the best academic interest of our kiddos at the small sites.

To close, I have been doing this job for over a decade now and as I write this report I can't help to think that we are doing a pretty good job being progressive and hanging in there. With all the challenges, we still seem to be keeping the focus on kids and I feel firmly that we are offering a solid education in LPSD. As always, we will learn from our mistakes and continue to grow. LPSD continues to be a wonderful place to live, work and go to school... I look forward to the spring semester!