

Vision: We grow self directed, life-long learners who are grounded in their culture and contribute to their communities.



Mission: We will nourish student growth by investing in partnerships and implementing culturally responsive, place based education.

Date: November 27, 2024
To: Lake and Peninsula School Board
From: Kasie Luke, Superintendent
Re: Report: December 6, 2024

2024 Fall Semester Overview

Board Guidance / Participation – I want to take a moment to acknowledge the invaluable lessons I have gained from working alongside this board, both as individuals and as a collective. Your dedication to serving LPSD and fostering meaningful dialogue, even amidst challenging transitions and topics, has been an inspiring example of collaboration. While we all continue to grow in our roles, I deeply appreciate the focus on shared accountability and the commitment to the success of our students and staff. Together, we are navigating complex issues with resilience and purpose, and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside you.

Enrollment – LPSD has not dropped a significant amount as we have 320 PK-12 students during the 2024-2025 school year so far (FY23 we had 326, FY24 we had 325). We have maintained 10 active community school sites and there are students enrolled in our Lake View Homeschool.

No First Day Vacancies – I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Mr. Bill Cornell, our Assistant Superintendent and Director of Personnel, for his unwavering dedication and exceptional leadership in ensuring that the Lake and Peninsula School District began the 2024-2025 school year with no first-day vacancies in our classrooms. This achievement reflects his tireless efforts in recruiting, onboarding, and supporting new staff as a cohesive cohort. By providing our educators with the tools and guidance needed to start strong, LPSD has directly contributed to creating the best possible learning environment for our students from day one. This accomplishment underscores the critical role of effective onboarding and collaboration in supporting our staff and, ultimately, our students' success.

Cross Country Success - LPSD has a lot of young athletes who have represented us at the State level this year in Cross Country. This year's LPSD State qualifiers Shea Nelson (IGI), Ida Lester (NEW), Kaydi Sandforth (PTA), Avery Nelson (IGI), Pagan Lester (NEW), Noah Davis (PTA), Warren Davis (PTA), and Erik McGee (PTA)!

Volleyball Success - Congratulations to the Levelock Vikings, LPSD's recipient of the Sportsmanship Award. Thank you for being positive representatives for LPSD and working hard as a team! Tanalian Lynx will represent LPSD at the State Volleyball Tournament! Good luck, Lynx!

BBRC TE – The Bristol Bay Regional Career and Technical Education program exemplifies the power of collaboration among Dillingham City, Bristol Bay Borough, Southwest Region, and Lake and Peninsula School Districts. Since 2011, this partnership has provided invaluable opportunities to students across 22 communities—opportunities no single district could achieve alone. By working together and leveraging shared resources, the BBRC TE team has created a program that equips students with critical skills for their futures, strengthening our region as a whole. This collective effort underscores the importance of collaboration in delivering meaningful, lasting impacts for our students and communities

Migrant Education – LPSD is grateful to have the thorough oversight of Mrs. Rebecca Stenson ensuring 125 migrant education students receive support through this program. So far in the 2024-2025 school year, Rebecca has provided 9 in person community information gatherings, sent 85 backpacks, 258 winter gear items (and counting), and have supported LPSD hiring 3 tutors for Spring 2025 so far. 38% of the LPSD student body are eligible for these federal funds.

Funding – While we still have not received a significant increase in the base student allocation, we are grateful to have received \$680 one time funding outside the Base Student Allocation formula this year. We will keep fighting for State funding in the upcoming legislative session. It would be advantageous for our tribes and communities to get more involved in advocacy as they are feeling the impacts of our budget deficit with the discontinuation of the school lunch program and considerations for cuts continuing to be made.

Maintenance – Our maintenance team has had a primary focus on ensuring the safety and functionality of school buildings, with particular attention to heating systems and structural integrity for winter months. Although like all departments, maintenance has been slimmed down within the budget, there is emphasis on the importance of regular maintenance schedules to prevent disruptions to the educational environment. Although we face our challenges, there is a concerted effort to address any wear and tear promptly, ensuring that all facilities meet the district's standards for safety and efficiency.

Child Find – LPSD's Child Find program conducted hearing and vision screenings this fall for all students in grades PK-12 at active school sites, with exceptions for absences or opt-outs. Collaborating with Alaska Public Health Nurse Kumi Rattenbury, Mrs. Rebecca Stenson contacted families of students who did not pass and referred them to local health providers. Additional screenings will be offered at SNAP Meet for secondary and Newhalen students who missed the initial round. Part of the federal IDEA mandate, Child Find identifies and evaluates students needing special education services in partnership with LPSD's Special Education department.

Mentor/Mentee Program – The LPSD Mentor Program is a vital recruitment and retention tool, providing individualized support to new teachers and positively impacting student learning. In FY24-25, 7 of 14 mentored educators returned, underscoring its effectiveness. Mentorship focuses on key areas like multi-level classroom management, culturally responsive teaching, and place-based learning, with mentors maintaining consistent communication and offering on-site support. Professional development opportunities, including state training cohorts and collaborative meetings, strengthen mentor capabilities. Surveys highlight mentees' appreciation for the program's encouragement and practical support, while mentors report personal growth and value in fostering confidence in new educators. The Stronger Connections Grant will enhance travel opportunities for on-the-ground mentorship, further reinforcing this essential program.