

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: January 13, 2026
To: Lake and Peninsula School Board
From: Kasie Luke, Superintendent
Re: Report: January 15, 2026

Dates & Happenings:

- ➔ Basketball Season! ASAA schools (Newhalen & Port Alsworth) are competing through booster/community support and 2 LPSD funded tournaments per team in accordance with budget, and our mix-3 small schools teams travel to Newhalen, January 21-24 for Jamboree.
- ➔ Battle of the Books! Hosted virtually district-wide and is by volunteer participation of students at various sites - February, 2 - 6, 2025
- ➔ Meshik School will host the 3-man, LPSD District Tournament February 16 - 18, 2026

Sustaining Emergency Response in the Lake and Peninsula Region

1. Winter Emergency Response: What Happened

- During late December and early January, the Lake and Peninsula region experienced sustained extreme cold, placing significant strain on school and community infrastructure.
- Although this period fell over winter break, emergencies did not pause: boilers failed, systems were stressed, and freeze-related risks increased across multiple sites.
- LPSD's maintenance department responded continuously, repairing boilers, maintaining heat, and addressing urgent issues before they escalated into major system failures.
- Their efforts ensured schools and community facilities remained warm, operational, and protected during one of the coldest periods of the year.

2. People Behind the Response: Gratitude and Reality

- This level of response is only possible because of the longevity, experience, and relationships built by individuals such as **Tim McDermott and Carl Adams**, along with the dedicated LPSD maintenance team.
- Decades of service, trust within our communities, and deep institutional knowledge allowed for quick decision-making, effective troubleshooting, and coordination across remote sites.
- This capacity cannot be replicated quickly or easily; without these individuals, LPSD would not be able to respond at the same level or with the same effectiveness during emergencies.
- The district is deeply grateful for their commitment, reliability, and willingness to show up—especially during times when systems and communities are most vulnerable.

Sustaining Emergency Response in the Lake and Peninsula Region (continued)

3. Looking Forward: Concern and Call to Action

- The current response capacity highlights both our strengths and our vulnerabilities.
- LPSD must continue advocating with Lake and Peninsula Borough in conversations about:
 - Emergency response expectations and coordination
 - Resources needed to support sustainable response capacity
 - Long-term planning for systems, structures, and the future of schools and communities
- Considering we are reactive in our responses, the future goal would be to, in time, proactively plan and invest are essential to ensure that LPSD can continue to respond effectively as experienced personnel are available or not and systems age.

Alaska Legislative Session 2026, What to Watch

State Context

- Fiscal constraints continue across Alaska.
- Oil tax revenues are projected to decline, limiting new spending.
- Education funding discussions focus on stability, not expansion.

K–12 Impact

- Many districts face flat or declining enrollment, even where population grows.
- Fixed costs do not decline proportionally, driving budget pressure and deficits.

Legislative Focus

- AASB priorities emphasize funding stability, educator support, infrastructure, and student wellness.
- Growing interest in structural funding changes to improve predictability.

Rep. Andi Story – Enrollment Funding

- Proposal uses multi-year average enrollment rather than a single-year count.
- Intended to reduce volatility and avoid sudden cuts; framed as a stability measure.