

June 6, 2024

Esteemed Lake and Peninsula School District Board,

My name is Teagann Smith, I have been a student in Port Alsworth my entire school career. I am entering into my senior year of high school, and have had so many amazing opportunities and experiences throughout my education. I have been fortunate enough to be put in leadership positions in my school's student council; my mix six volleyball team; as well as numerous positions in my local church. The purpose for me writing this letter is to inform you of the lack of funding and financial efforts that smaller schools receive for their extracurricular activities. I am not aware if other schools in our district have also come across this obstacle, but I would like to make you aware of the circumstances in my school.

I have had the fortune to be re-elected as president of the student council at my school for the second year in a row. As such I want to address and resolve as many issues as I can for my school. I have encountered many issues relating to the lack of adequate funding from outside of the community. I would like to draw attention to where we have to focus and direct our current, limited income. The responsibility and expectation of collecting funds, falls on the shoulders of the Student Government. Through fundraisers, Banners For Kids, and our student store, we are expected to not only fund all sports travel, we are also expected to provide new equipment, tools, and merchandise. Throughout the years, it has not been an issue to raise enough money and funds for the bare minimums of travel, food, and gas. However, the real reason that I am reaching out to you, is to inform you that small schools struggle to successfully accommodate extracurricular activities.

I would like to emphasize the fact that our student athletes do not have the proper tools to successfully train their bodies to prevent injury. Throughout the past decade or so, Tanalian High School has successfully placed and won at state for mix-six volleyball. It has always been a dream that we could have a proper weight room in our school. With all intention to support and accommodate the student athletes, Student Government has been putting in utmost effort to raise enough funds to support not only sports travel, but the eventual purchase of all our weight room equipment. I believe that, for the benefit of the district, we need to create a fund, in which financial support is provided to schools with written requests. To create a system where budgets are provided for school's extracurricular or recreational activities. This budget could also be applied to educational experiences and travel. I believe that there are numerous solutions to solving and relieving communities of the financial burden. I believe that a budget that is only used to support and encourage students to make their own education and experiences into their own hands. I look forward to hearing back from you.

Sincerely,

Teagann Smith