

Date: March 7, 2025

To: LPSD School Board

From: Kacy Lou Leyba

Regarding: March Student Services Report

The Student Services Team has been out and about a fair amount over the last month and we are gearing up for more travel throughout the month of March. Patty was able to join the majority of the district at the Lake in February for our 3-man basketball jamboree, while Kacy Lou was able to make it to Newhalen to meet with seniors, other students, staff, and Elisabeth in person before she gears up to transition to Anchorage for maternity leave. March will include a Kacy Lou joining our BBRCTE team in Anchorage as supplementary support for students and staff; she also plans to travel to Newhalen once again for a crisis-response trip following the tragic loss that has continued to impact the communities of Newhalen and Iliamna.

February and early March also brought the second survey window for the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) for our secondary students whose guardians had given expressed permission for participation. This questionnaire has already proven to be fruitful in the fact that it has helped us to identify several struggling students in the district and connect them to the appropriate crisis-intervention and on-going mental health supports. Our team also participated in a Columbia Suicide Risk-Assessment screener training in February. Initial feedback from implementation is that that process has been a good fit for our team as we seek to support students dealing with self-harm and suicidal ideation. Some of the mental health struggles that have occurred this month throughout the district have highlighted the need for as many staff as possible to be trained in youth mental health first aid. If possible, this is something that our team would like to prioritize for professional development for all certified staff in FY26.

Our team has also been working on decreasing absenteeism within LPSD through consistent student outreach and coordination with our administrators. We would like to propose the formation of a school board subcommittee that would work alongside our Student Services Team and help provide feedback on how we can best implement current school board policies and pursue holistic student well-being. If this is something you are interested in, please feel free to reach out to Kacy Lou, Kasie, or Bill directly.

We are so excited to be beginning a partnership with Bristol Bay School District that will allow us to implement the outstanding culturally-relevant social and emotional learning curriculum they have been developing alongside our very own Beth Hill. We are looking to begin piloting said curriculum at all levels as early as Fall 2025. Thank you, Beth, for the gift of your artistry and insight to this project!

While there are so many other happenings in our program that could be highlighted, it is definitely worth noting that Elisabeth has sent in an application to the "One Warm Coat" program to create a formal partnership between their organization and LPSD. If accepted, this program will help provide winter coats to students in need, similar to the Kicks 4 Kids program that she found earlier this year. We are also coordinating the creation of a clothing and hygiene supply bank to help resource students in need throughout the district. If you are interested in helping to coordinate donations to this, feel free to reach out to Elisabeth for more information.

The sun is out today, which means SNAP and graduations are near! We look forward to making the most of the rest of our school year alongside you. Thank you for all you do!