



LAKE AND PENINSULA SCHOOL DISTRICT



December 13, 2020

Dear Small School Parents, Community Members, and Stakeholders,

As we are all aware, Lake and Pen School District and our villages often struggle with having ten students minimum enrolled in order to receive full funding from the State. In the past, we have approached struggling schools in different ways and have learned a few lessons. First, waiting until the October count period costs a considerable amount of money (facilities, food service, staffing, etc.). Hence, we have started the “intent to enroll” process in the spring, and the Board determines whether to open or close schools based on projected enrollments. While we have moved to close schools in the spring, the Board has always felt strongly about making sure that there is hope. Therefore, if there are ten students *in the village* by mid-August, we look at opening the school for the October count period.

Most recently, we have learned another lesson. Due to nation-wide and state-wide teacher shortages, opening a school in August and finding instructional staff is extremely difficult. Because of this, opening a closed school in August could mean delayed starts, long-term subs hired if there are no full-time teachers available, and possibly not opening the school if we can't find teachers or subs.

I wanted to take a moment to share with you some specifics, so you have the information needed to problem solve and plan for next year:

- Super seniors under the age of 20 can count towards your 10.
- Kindergarten students do count; however, students have to be 5 years old by September 1, 2020 to qualify for Kindergarten.
- The District, while we want to help, cannot take part in supporting or recruiting students – this must be village initiated.
- While great teachers with families are always sought after, they are also extremely scarce.
- The “Intent to Enroll” process will take place in March of 2020.

These decisions are always the toughest that the Board and Administration have to make. I know I speak for the Board when I say that we are pulling for all of our small schools.

In the meantime, if questions arise, please give me a call and I will do my best to answer them for you. The direct line at the district office is 246-8661.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ty Mase".

Ty Mase, Superintendent