

April, 2022

Lake and Peninsula School Board
P.O. Box 498
King Salmon, AK 99613

To the Members of the Lake and Peninsula School District,

We, the Tanalain School LSAC, are writing to inquire about your opinions and perspectives on the National School Boards Association (NSBA) letter to President Biden and subsequent events.

On September 29, 2021, the NSBA wrote a letter to President Biden “on behalf of our state associations and the more than 90,000 school board members who govern our country’s 14,000 local public-school districts educating more than 50 million school children.” The letter asked, “that the federal government investigate, intercept, and prevent the current threats and acts of violence against our public-school officials through existing statutes, executive authority, interagency and intergovernmental task forces, and other extraordinary measures to ensure the safety of our children and educators, to protect interstate commerce, and to preserve public school infrastructure and campuses.” The letter continued in soliciting the expertise and resources of the U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Secret Service, and its National Threat Assessment Center, in addition to the U.S. Postal Inspection Services to help protect students, educators, and public-school infrastructures, to name a few. The “threats and acts of violence” the NSBA was referring to was local parents participating and expressing their opinions, all be it undoubtedly heated, in local school board meetings, going so far as to characterize these parents as “the equivalent to a form of domestic terrorism and hate crimes.”

As citizens of Lake and Peninsula Borough, taxpayers, and voters, we always want to protect our children, local educators, and our school from threats and violence. However, we are concerned when such extreme measures such as requesting the Department of Homeland Security’s help to mediate a situation between school boards and parents when respectful dialogue seem more fitting.

We have found Lake and Peninsula School District personnel and our school board *very receptive* to parent involvement and quick to not only accept, but seek parent input. This posture regarding LPSD students’ education and parent involvement is **so valuable and deeply appreciated**. We want to continue that partnership with you in relation to this issue. To that end, would you be so kind as to answer the following questions?

- 1) Is LPSD a member of the Association of Alaska School Boards? If so, what are the membership fees related to that membership?
- 2) Is the Association of Alaska School Boards a member of the National School Boards Association? If so, what are the membership fees related to that membership? And if so, what are the benefits to our school district of this relationship?
- 3) What are your thoughts on the September 29, 2021 letter and subsequent events?

Thank you for your time and effort responding to our inquiries regarding this issue.

Sincerely,

Tanalian LSAC

Heidi Wilder - President

Leo Fowler - Vice President

Kacy Lou Leyba - Secretary

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