



Date: December 13, 2022
To: Lake and Peninsula School Board
From: Kasie Luke, Superintendent
Re: Report, December 13, 2022

2022 Fall Semester Overview

Board Guidance / Participation – Its an honor to work with our School Board. Each individual member’s willingness to do what is needed never ceases to amaze me. Their commitment to the students of LPSD and to each of our communities is relentless.

Celebrating Excellent Teachers – Our 2022-2023 Marigolds keep blossoming throughout the District. Chosen or not, we know who our marigolds are – it is these amazing educators who make up the backbone of LPSD and define “who we are.” A huge thank you goes out to our 2022-2023 award winners, Mrs. Barbra Donachy, Mr. Brandon Hummel, Ms. Taryn Williams, Mrs. Marli Nikolaus, Ms. Dana Wolff, Mr. Jeff Hagen and all those who were nominated!

Enrollment – While districts across the State have struggled with significant decreases in enrollment, LPSD has not dropped a significant amount (FY22 we had 349, FY23 we have 326). Several of our schools are growing rapidly with Meshik School at 29, Newhalen at 75 students (+11 preschoolers). Unfortunately, the Chignik Bay and Pilot Point Schools have closed due to low enrollment this year.

Igiugig Duplex – Our 5th largest site (26 students), Igiugig’s duplex project has been all but completed thanks to an AHFC housing grant and support of funds from Lake and Pen Borough. Igiugig was in need of a third teacher and more classroom space.

Cross Country Success - LPSD has a lot of young athletes who have represented us at the State level this year in Cross Country. This year’s LPSD State qualifiers from Port Alsworth and Newhalen represented the district well - Ellah Wardell
Ali Voran, Aileen Lester, Pagan Lester, Noah Davis, Keilan Wassillie

Volleyball Success - Congratulations to the Tanlaian Lynx, Alaska’s Mix 6 Alaska State Champions for the second year in a row! Thank you for being positive representatives for LPSD and working hard as a team; Daniel Wardell, Ellah Wardell, Alianna Voran, Sam Fowler, Sam Smith, Brielle Lorentzen, Teagann Smith, Noah Opland, Mikiah Lorentzen, and Jordan Alsworth.

BBRCCTE – Our BBRCCTE Team has grown and so have the courses that are being offered. We are so incredibly grateful for the collaboration and consistent growth of CTE opportunities for students in LPSD and in our region. We have had a total of 14 in person and blended courses offered just this semester in Nakenk/King Salmon, Dillingham, and Palmer.

Mother Nature - We have had high winds storms, many earthquakes, less cold temperatures than this time last year, yet more snow fall, and I am very impressed by how our staff across the District have overall an outstanding attitude about the struggles we face because of the weather and they keep on even in the adverse situations.

Funding – While we still have not received a significant increase in the base student allocation, we will keep fighting for State funding in the upcoming legislative session. With CARES Act monies mostly expiring in the upcoming year, we are looking at creative ways to combat spending through our fund balance during times of brutal inflation, and very little support from our State. We have chosen to dip into the Lake and Pen Borough endowment monies to support our current efforts.

Online Educational Offerings - We continue to offer educational offerings in LA and Math for our small schools and many online opportunities for all LPSD students. We went this route out of necessity for direct instruction for students with a certified english/language arts teacher. While we are constantly striving to improve our practices, we are grateful for the consistency of Mr. Christian Meneskie and Mrs. Marli Nikolaus as our online educators.

Katmai & Alyeska Inservice - We have been so fortunate to have carried out two inservices this fall through Literacy grant monies after two years of delayed full in-person inservice events. What an energy our staff brought with them as we gathered in the best interest of growing our educational practice to better ourselves to better serve our students. It was amazing to have everyone together. We could not have done it without Kate Cornell, Nicole Metzgar, and Theresa Wilson.

Mission & Vision Revisions - Our School Board is working on revisions of the LPSD Mission and Vision Statement. Although not finalized yet, it is a step in the right direction as we look ahead at strategic planning and future endeavors within the District.

Subsistence Calendar - 72.6% (as of December 12, 2022) of our 106 survey participants responded in positive favor of our Subsistence Calendar. This is year 6 since we have adopted a shortened school year.