

123 School Road
Nondalton, AK 99640

March 1, 2023

Lake and Peninsula School District
PO Box 498
King Salmon, AK 99613

Dear LPSD Administration and Teachers,

I am a student from Nondalton, my name is Gwendolyn Aaberg, and I've been attending school here in the Lake and Peninsula School District for almost eleven years. My purpose in writing this letter is to give honest feedback on the proposed district vision and offer up some ideas I have.

The words "self-directed lifelong learners" should be in the district vision because being a lifelong learner is great for mental wellbeing and will allow students to change and grow. Being self-directed to pursue education will support students in wanting to keep learning after they graduate. According to research done by Brandon Busteed, a writer for Forbes, most people will work up to fifteen jobs in their lives, and on top of that humans are expected to live beyond 100 so that will make the retirement age pushed back. With the expectancy of living for so long and how fast technology is advancing people will need to learn new skills and traits just as fast to be able to work in the upcoming years.

The words "contribute to their communities" should be in the district vision because being able to give back to a place you've known your whole life is very important. It'll teach students more about giving back, even if it doesn't always benefit them. I think it's important to contribute to a community in one way or another. According to a study done by Sarah Mead, the director of marketing and communications for Whitby School, states, "When students get involved in community service, they not only help others – they expand their worldview, develop empathy and leadership skills, and realize how their actions can have a positive impact." Teaching students to give back to their communities in a positive environment has the possibility to have them go on and change and contribute to their communities through numerous acts in their lives.

The words "grounded in their culture" should be in the district vision because students who are grounded in their culture more often have a deeper understanding and connection to the world around them. Cultures are dying out, and not slowly anymore. If we want to keep traditions around we need to start practicing them more. Grounding students in their cultures can be very effective in helping them understand more about where they came from while also bringing different cultures together. A student from Fitchburg University explains, "It is important for students to be taught about cultural heritage because, through a proper understanding, a student will be able to connect and appreciate cultural heritage and they will be able to apply it to their own life." This explanation shows that if students are being grounded in their culture they'll take action in practicing it in their lives and be more aware of cultures.

A concern that might be brought up about the words "grounded in their culture" is what if a student doesn't know their culture? How can teachers teach students about their culture if the student doesn't know or have one? Students don't necessarily need to learn a culture, they can still be taught the importance of cultures. In an article by Pennstate Extension it brings forward the idea of teaching students while they are young about cultural differences and it is shown to help them recognize that even if different in one way or another everyone is human.

If students accomplish being lifelong learners, have appreciation for their cultures, and

contribute to a community, the world will have a generation of great, high achieving young adults. Personally, I agree with everything that is said in the new district vision. I feel like the three new statements are stated in a way that will motivate and help students achieve what they want to be. Thank you for taking the time out of your day to read my honest feedback about the new district vision.

Respectfully,

Gwendolyn Aaberg

101 Caribou Lane, Port Heiden AK 99549

March 23, 2023

Lake and Peninsula School District
PO Box 498
King Salmon, AK 99613

Dear LPSD Administration,

My name is Adin Griechen and I've been in the district since I was in preschool until now. I left for 2 of my school years but other than that I've been here in LPSD. My reason for writing this letter is to have a better understanding about what is going to be taught to my future kids and what I would want to see changed. Also I would like to give feedback about the district vision.

The words "self-directed lifelong learners" should be in the district vision. I think being a lifelong learner will improve our lives in these ways: being a lifelong learner you'll have an increased chance of getting a job, the more you learn the better jobs you can get, in turn you'll have more money. Which eventually leads you to being able to leave the village, check out all of Alaska then go explore the rest of the world.. The more you see the world and its different cultures and how other parts of the country work, your mind will expand. Honestly if you are a lifelong learner, you can decide what you want to advance in, because if you are constantly learning and seeing different places your mind will know so much and you can decide where you might want to end up in life. All of this feeds into how being a lifelong learner improves your life; if you're always learning and busy you have no time to get into serious trouble, drugs or alcohol, you will be a better person, more happy and alive being happy with yourself and who you are. Having money and going places doesn't always make you happy, but if you learn and chase what you want, that's just another step closer to finding it.

The words "grounded in their culture" should be in the district vision. Clearly stated by this site, published in 2016, pg. 2, [The importance of culture](#), "In addition to its intrinsic value, culture provides important social and economic benefits. With improved learning and health, increased tolerance, and opportunities to come together with others, culture enhances our quality of life and increases overall well-being for both individuals and communities." Being grounded in your culture with others of similar culture does improve your life quality and brings you closer to the others in your community. Eventually you become a very well liked person and the one people come to when help is needed. We cannot forget the fact that so many cultures in Alaska are slowly being forgotten, mostly languages but practices and ways of life are slowly being lost too. That being said, becoming grounded in your culture may help students be happier, enjoy and be excited to come to school where their culture is being taught to them; then maybe they will be more excited to get out of school for the day to experiment with anything new they learned. I know I would be excited to come to school and learn more about my people and what my culture is instead of just school work, so I'm sure many others feel the same.

The words “contribute to their communities” should be in the district vision. This quote from the site, written by Madeline Ames, pg. 1, [The importance and benefits of giving back to your community](#), “Volunteering your time to support a cause you are passionate about is something you will never regret. It will enrich your life, familiarize you with your community, and connect you to people and ideas that will positively impact your perspective for the rest of your life. Helping your community is an opportunity for you to grow as a person, to better understand how you fit into the world around you.” Being a contributor to your community will help in all the ways it states above, and also you do it to just help and not really expect anything in return. When you're down and at your worst, all those people you were there for, they will stand behind you and be there for you.

I think that some sort of life skills should be included in the vision. I feel it doesn't have to be taught the whole time throughout highschool but at least the last year or two before we graduate. The schools can have us take a class that informs us on jobs and more of how it'll be in the world or our life. Explained in the article ReThink Education: The Life Skills Solution -NASSP, “Learning life skills helps our children create better futures for themselves and for the world at large: Young people involved in gangs leave them and become responsible individuals, misdirected youths become positive contributing community members, and students graduate from high school better equipped for college and rewarding careers.” All of this adds on perfectly to my argument. I think this is important because I would've liked to take some classes on this. so I asked the adults around the village and kids in school, they agreed that would be a valuable idea to include in the vision.

I assume that people will think that there are other classes that are more important than learning about life skills in school. They could bring up the points of how we need to learn about life skills outside of school, or even argue that since we're in the village students don't need all those valuable life skills. I still feel that a class could fit it somewhere, even a half hour class that will inform us more so students will have a new idea about the fundamentals to excel in a job. If more proof is needed to say that we all don't learn enough of those life skills at home there are many people in our community that will agree with me and sites online. Also CTE is a great counterclaim on ways to learn life skills and be more prepared but there are kids that don't go and don't like to go so maybe a life skills class can be an option. There will be kids that don't want to go to the city and go to more schooling but we feel here that there's enough that want to get out and explore non village life to start those.

Overall, I think the vision is made up of great ideas. What the district has planned already is what I would want my kids to learn in school, along with getting prepared to be self-directed lifelong learners and contributors to our community. In turn, my generation's kids would be more valued in the village and have people by their side, the kids will be happier and better people because it is proven that helping others without any cause can bring your mood up. If you're a lifelong learner and always open to new

things while getting yourself there as much as you can. I think present and future generations can be unstoppable in education and careers, flourishing in all areas as possible with the help of our schools and parents. Can you imagine us and our kids doing so well that we are profiting to make a remarkable life and able to bring our communities up to what they can really be? Some examples are more fish processing plants like back in the day, and better equipment to do roads, can be accomplished by just One self directed person that is focused on contributing to our community. So what if we had a whole school full of those who can accomplish that by themselves, then our kids will have a better life just because we are good successful parents, they see that and want to be like us than come to school and have teachers that enjoy teaching them and want to see them succeed, there would be nothing they can't do. If any teachers or higher ups would like to talk more about this or have any questions I would be willing to talk, there is still much more I haven't typed that should be said. My school Email is agriechen@students.lpsd.com and if any more personal contact information is needed can get ahold of me through that Email. Thank you for letting me have my opinion and suggestions in this vision, I'm hoping to hear from you and hoping my letter did some good.

Adin Griechen

1500 School Road, Port Heiden, AK 99549

Lake and Peninsula School District
PO Box 498
King Salmon, AK 99613

Dear LPSD Teachers,

My name is Adam Tunguing, I am currently schooling at Meshik School and I've been back in the district since this school year started. My purpose in writing this letter is to give feedback and to have a little say in the vision and mission statement for the school district.

The words "self-directed lifelong learners" should be in the vision. According to a study done by the University of Cincinnati, "Lifelong learning is good for your brain, mental well-being and self-esteem. Continued education can lead to beneficial career advancements. Taking new classes will help you gain practical skills. Exploring new passions helps you connect with like-minded individuals." I think it should be in the vision because everyone should shoot to be a lifelong learner and do what you want to do.

"Grounded in their culture" should also be in the vision. Research from the National Institutes of Health says that being culturally grounded means to, "build on values, beliefs, practices, and socio-historical perspectives of the targeted population." One reason I think it should be in the vision is that it is important to build from culture to understand what heritage you came from.

Should the words "contribute to their communities" be in the district vision statement? Yes, Why? Because you should always contribute to your community, and schools should teach you the basics and then focus on what you want to be and master those skills to be a good contributor to the community. Education First says contributing to your community will "enrich your life, familiarize you with your community, and connect you to people and ideas that will positively impact your perspective for the rest of your life. Helping your community is an opportunity for you to grow as a person, to better understand how you fit into the world around you."

Some things I feel like that should be in the district vision statement are "career skills" and "practical knowledge." I also think that schools should focus on making students more career ready. "Today's life and work environments require far more than thinking skills and content knowledge. The ability to navigate the complex life and work environments in the globally competitive information age requires students to pay rigorous attention to developing adequate life and career skills," says Arya Vishwaroop. Why is it important to have career building skills as a student? "It provides opportunities for students to explore what their interests are, learn about potential careers, learn how to gain job experience, and find additional educational opportunities to support career development, says Youth.gov."

Career readiness prepares students for life after college as they begin their careers, equipping them with the skills necessary to navigate the workforce. Some people might have concerns like, "Students are always changing their minds about what they want to do with their career and many don't know, so how can you really teach career skills?" Well, we would be able to figure out our interests and aptitudes if we just had enough teachers and a bigger school with different classes, like shop class, science lab, or other career skills classes.

Career readiness is critical in schools because it prepares students for life after college as they begin their careers, equipping them with the skills necessary to navigate the workforce. If you have some feedback for me about my ideas, I would love to hear from you. That is all I have to say about the district vision, your welcome and goodnight to you all.

300 School Rd, Chignik Lake, AK 99548

March 27,2023

Lake and Peninsula School District
PO Box 498
King Salmon, AK 99613

Dear School Board Members,

My name is Dante Kalmakoff. I go to school at Chignik Lake. I have been going to school here since preschool. My purpose in writing this letter is to offer feedback on the proposed district vision.

The words “self-directed lifelong learners” should be in the district vision because graduates will always get better at what they are doing. According to the UC News, “The landscape of the workforce is forever changing and becoming a lifelong learner is one the best things you can do to increase your employability.” This matters because life learning is how we made our society. People who made this place are lifelong learners.

The words “contribute to their communities” should be in the district vision. According to ww.ef.com, “Spending time enriching your community is a great way to broaden your perceptions of the world. By immersing yourself in a community and surrounding yourself with people who are dedicated to bettering the world, you can learn so much about how the world works. You gain a unique sense of purpose by serving those around you, one which often manifests in other areas of your life.” If everyone who graduated contributed to their community, if everyone contributed to their communities out of high school I'm sure everyone would be much nicer and have a better way of living. I agree with this website that we should serve someone in our community like an elder or someone who lived there all of their life and knows everything about that or this thing. According to vanhosser.com, “Everyone has hard things they're dealing with in their life. Pick someone, a co-worker, customer, friend, family member — someone you can serve. Then think of a way to serve them. Clean their house, play with their kids so they can go out, mow their yard, make them dinner, plan something fun for them to do.”

“Grounded in their culture ” should be in the district vision. According to Drexel University, “Students who learn about different cultures during their education feel more comfortable and safe with these differences later in life. This allows them to interact in a wider range of social groups and feel more confident in themselves as well as in their interactions with others.” This matters because students would feel more confident while talking to people like for job interviews.

Some people might disagree with me because there might be anybody in the schools who knows the culture, but I think we need to keep students grounded in their culture. The school could invite the people who know to come in and run a culture camp.

The ideas in the district vision are very important subjects for us in Alaska and also down in the lower 48 in some places for some people, especially being grounded in culture. In closing I think that culture is a subject that a lot of us should be focusing on. When you cannot think of anything to do on some days just get outside and practice something that you know about your culture, and if you do not know just ask one of your hometown elders to tell you. I invite those who disagree with me to send me anything back for arguments and I will definitely respond back. Thank you for taking the time to read my paper.

Sincerely,

Dante Kalmakoff

100 School Rd, Chignik, AK 99564

4/5/2023

Lake and Peninsula School District
PO Box 498
King Salmon, AK 99613

Dear LPSD Administration,

My name is Madison Anderson and I've been attending school in LPSD since 2015. I am writing this letter because I think "self-directed lifelong learners" should be in the district vision, but the other parts should be changed.

The words "self-directed lifelong learners" should be in the district vision because kids can take responsibility for their own education and can decide not only what they want to learn but what they need to learn in order to become a lifelong learner even as an adult.

I don't think "contribute to our communities" should be in the vision just because I feel as though we already contribute to our communities everyday just by being teachers, health aids, public workers, etc. I think the real question is should we contribute to our communities more?

I don't think "grounded in their culture" should be in the district vision because I personally don't feel as if I need to know more about my culture in order to learn something else. Being taught to be "grounded in their culture" is a nice thought and should definitely be an option for students who feel as if they do want that, but I don't feel like it should be mandatory.

Opponents bring up the concern that If students are left to choose whether they should learn about their culture or not, many of them won't, either because they don't have time with other classes that they are required to take or because they don't care. This would mean that many

students wouldn't learn about their culture. However, students already learn about their culture everyday in history and reading classes. Even if they didn't choose to take an elective culture class they'd still get some exposure.

To conclude this letter I would like you to not just think of us kids graduating within these next two years but the ones who come after us. Think of them and how what we do now matters for their future. Think about how we can change the learning curve and have them strive to want to learn more everyday.

Sincerely,

Madison Anderson

P.O BOX 116
Nondalton, AK 99640

March, 14, 2023

School Board Members

Lake and Peninsula School District
PO Box 498
King Salmon, AK 99613

Dear LPSD Administration,

My name is Jaydon "Ricky" Kakaruk. I live in Nondalton Alaska and attend Nondalton school. I finally came back to the district after eight years, and have been going to school here for five years. My purpose in writing this letter is to offer feedback on the proposed district vision, and offer language that should be added.

The words "self-directed lifelong learners" should be in the vision , but it's obvious. I'm right in the middle because we could set visions other than obvious. Becoming a self-directed lifelong learner is the reason we come to school. A quote from Bellevue College I found talks about how in today's age you need more than the ability to think, and need more knowledge than what schools give you. "Today's life and work environments require far more than thinking skills and content knowledge. The ability to navigate the complex life and work environments in the globally competitive information age requires students to pay rigorous attention to developing adequate life and career skills."

The words "grounded in their culture" should be in the district vision, because I like learning about my culture and it's that my teachers try to teach me about it. But I'd prefer someone who's part of the same culture and is an expert at it, instead of learning along the way with the person who's teaching. A quote from David J. O'Connor talks about something similar when learning about cultural awareness. "In my experience, when discussing teaching about cultures, we are referencing a culture's foods, festivities, heroes, and holidays. The idea around teaching culturally is that the educator is becoming a guide for their students and is actively learning and participating *with* them in their understanding of the content being shared and explored."

The words "contribute to their communities" should be in the district vision. For one, if your community contributes to you then it's nice to give back to it, but if no one contributes to your community then maybe you should and others will follow. According to Vernita Dorsey "Giving back can help brighten your mood and provide an opportunity to meet your community. If you're looking to advance your career, volunteering at nonprofits can also provide great networking opportunities and chances to serve on organizations' boards and committees to gain leadership experience."

What I feel that is missing from the vision is life skills, life skills are something we really need to learn such as, filling out a job application and doing taxes. Another one is career research, we've done this in class, and on CTE trips. Schools should really help us out in choosing a career and I feel like that should be part of the vision. "Today's life and work environments require far more than thinking skills and content knowledge. The ability to navigate the complex life and work

environments in the globally competitive information age requires students to pay rigorous attention to developing adequate life and career skills.” Here are some statistics I found from [Mission.org](#) explaining why these skills should be learned in school:

In 2011, 1.5 million, or **53.6%** of college grads under age 25 were out of work or underemployed.

And for those that do have jobs? **48%** of employed U.S. college grads are in jobs that require less than a four-year degree.

30% of college graduates don't feel college prepared them for the world of work.

Start teaching this sooner than college. Not everyone goes to college, but everyone needs to know this stuff. (Mission.org)

The point I'm getting at is, we should be learning this stuff before some of us even start to consider college, these skills should be learned before we graduate highschool.

People might disagree with my suggestion because they need to learn these kinds of skills, at home or at work. I one hundred percent agree these skills could be learned at home. But if you learn these skills in school and before you start working that would save you in the long run.

It is important to take these things into consideration because if you aren't feeling ready for the real world this can help you get started, and help prepare you for your life ahead. Feel free to ask any questions you have, let me know if there are any concerns, you can email me at jkakaruk@students.lpsd.com.

Sincerely,
Jaydon “Ricky” Kakaruk

99640 P.O BOX 2

March, 14, 2023

School Board Members

Lake and Peninsula School District

PO Box 498

King Salmon, AK 99613

Dear School Board,

Hello, I'm Cordelle and I go to Nondalton school. I've been going to Nondalton school for 15 years. My purpose for writing this letter is to show how much I have gained since I've been in school.

Self-directed lifelong learners should be in the district vision. According to "What is Self-Directed Learning", "Self-directed learning is a learning method whereby the student takes initiative for learning. This includes activities such as selecting, managing, and assessing their own learning activities." If self-directed lifelong learners are in the district vision, then there would be a lot more people that are motivated to finish their goals after graduating.

Contributing to their communities should be in the district vision. "All graduates will be prepared to achieve their choices of post-secondary education, career, and community contribution says" District Vision and Strategic Priorities - Arlington Public Schools [Arlington.k12.ma.us](https://www.arlington.k12.ma.us) <https://www.arlington.k12.ma.us> > apps > pages". I think contributing to their communities should be in the district vision because it will help the youth to open their minds to spreading positivity and it will be beneficial to their hometown.

Grounded in their culture should be in the district vision. From Learning Beyond COVID-19: A Vision for Thriving in Public ...National Education Association <https://www.nea.org> > [resource-library](https://www.nea.org) > [learning-bey](https://www.nea.org) the reason why it should be in, is because "learning is greatly influenced by students' cultural backgrounds and contexts, we must also attend to cultivating relationships." The schools came to the villages and messed up the cultures so they should be the ones trying to keep it going.

A concern that might be brought up about grounded in their culture is who will be teaching the culture. If you think about it, when a teacher gets there they are not going to know anything about the culture. However the school and the tribe could team up and work together to have someone who works in that place to come in and teach it.

If we did implement the proposed vision, then everything you see now will change. For example in Nondalton our village will be cleaner, nicer, and the community will grow. Thank you for listening to my ideas. I'm happy to keep in communication with you about what I said. Thank you for your time for looking into this.

*Sincerely,
Cordelle*