

Mr. Ty Mase, Superintendent
Lake and Peninsula School District
King Salmon, Ak.

Dear Ty,

I wanted to say thank you for the opportunity to serve as the Port Heiden/Meshik principal during these last two years. It has been an experience that I will never forget and a chance to work with a professional team, a district, and a community that truly care about kids and helping to prepare them for success in whatever they do after graduation. I know this will continue for years to come.

So it is with very mixed emotions that I let you know that I will not return next year, and will give that retirement thing a try, again. The realization that my educational career has now crossed over into a 5th decade (41+ years) is an eye opener. But I also can see that I am surrounded by young professionals who are doing great work, and whose skills far exceed what I ever attained.

As I reflect back on these past 33 years in Alaska, it seems Port Heiden and Lake and Pen have always been a part of that life. For my first 5 years in Sand Point, Reeves planes stopped in Port Heiden to refuel before completing the journey west. We hosted Perryville students and others from LPSD at our swimming pool. I also remember traveling to LPSD communities as a wrestling and basketball coach and the kindness shown me and my teams. In Kodiak I remember scheduling village competitions with Alex Trout and Bernie and the friendships that grew from those partnerships for both student athletes and the adults involved. Later in Bristol Bay, we had some great opportunities thanks to Lake and Pen staff members and leaders. No doubt you played a big part in that success. These last two years have been the icing on the cake. I finally got to see first hand what an exceptional district we are.

I wanted to send you this letter now so that you can make plans for the future and help the district continue to support Port Heiden students and families in the ways Lake and Peninsula has always done in the past. It would be a mistake if I didn't thank the Board, the Meshik LSAC, and my administrative colleagues for the unwavering support. You all took a big chance on me and I hope I did what you had expected.

Please know that soon I will be part of that fraternity/alumni that is LPSD former staff. While I have to step away and move on to next adventures, I will always be available if I can help LPSD in some small way. Continued success to you and the district. Thanks for this opportunity to serve.

Sincerely,


Jack Walsh