

Vision: We grow self directed, life-long learners who are grounded in their culture and contribute to their communities.



Mission: We will nourish student growth by investing in partnerships and implementing culturally responsive, place based education.

Date: February 11, 2025
To: Lake and Peninsula School Board
From: Kasie Luke, Superintendent
Re: Report: February 13, 2025

Dates & Happenings:

- Battle of the Books! Chignik Lagoon, Kokhanok, Newhalen, Port Alsworth February 10-13
- Chignik Lake will host the 3-man, small schools District Tournament February 18 - 20, 2025
- 5-Man Boys Basketball Regional Tournament, February 26 - March 1 in Port Alsworth
- 5-Man Girls Basketball Regional Tournament, February 26- March 1 in King Cove
- End of 3rd quarter (already!) March 6, 2025

Public Education Funding & Advocacy

The feeling in Juneau this past weekend (February 7-10) was that legislators are trying to find a compromise to avoid another knock-down with Governor Mike Dunleavy over school funding, but things may mount up to a critical point early in the session. Representative Bryce Edgmon stated he is hopeful they will be able to find solutions by the middle of March and is feeling optimistic for an increase within the BSA. All four caucuses are meeting with the governor's people in closed door discussions. This includes the Senate Majority and new Minority and the House Majority and Minority. I read in the Bradner Report (an LPSD subscription) that "engaging minority Republicans is a healthy development".

Thank you to Board Member, Beth Hill and Member Sarah Armstrong for their advocacy through testimony and meeting with Legislators during this time.

You can watch the testimony [recording from Monday, February 10, 2025 here.](#) It was very powerful and brought many feelings to the forefront in the best interest of students all across Alaska.

Communication has been sent out to Tribal and community contacts to write resolutions if they are in support of funding for public education. One critical component to writing these resolutions that was outlined by Representative Himschoot, the sponsor of [HB 69](#): Education Funding, Increase BSA, is that they need to include the importance of a BSA increase in accordance with HB 69 because the current omnibus bill ([HB 76](#) & [SB 82](#)) the Governor has put forward does not include monies for cost of operations, which is drowning our schools. Highlighting cost of fuel, freight, insurance and other utilities helps the argument that targeted monies do not support the very basic needs of our students in school.

Another bill that we are keeping an eye on and offering insight for is sponsored by Representative Maxine Dibert, [HB 12](#): Free Breakfast and Lunch in Public Schools

Here is a breakdown of Governor Dunleavy's proposed omnibus (combines a variety of measures into one bill) Senate Bill (SB) 82 and House Bill (HB) 76 regarding Education Reform as interpreted by AASB:

1. Empower Families & Students with Educational Options

- Inspire Tribal & Community Ownership Through Tribal Compacting
 - a. Provide educational autonomy in Alaska's tribal communities
- Increase Flexible Learning Opportunities
 - a. Protect correspondence programs and create additional educational pathways that support individual students and family needs
- Support the Growth & Innovation of Charter Schools
 - a. Foster diverse and innovative educational environments that adapt to community needs
 - b. Increase charter school authorization authority at the local and state levels to ensure broader access
- Expand Access to Public Schools
 - a. Enhance intra-district open enrollment policies so that all students can access any public school within a district
 - b. Provide families with mobilization grants to support student transportation needs

2. Target Investments for Improved Educational Results

- Increase Student Achievement
 - a. Strategically allocate resources to promote student achievement to prepare students for success in school and beyond
- Increase Reading Proficiency by 3rd Grade Through the Alaska Reads Act
 - a. Prioritize early literacy through direct classroom support – incentive awards for only those students who meet grade level proficiency or show growth.

Here is a breakdown of Governor Dunleavy's proposed omnibus (cont.)

- Attract & Retain High-Quality Educators
 - a. Prioritize the classroom by implementing Teacher Retention strategies to attract and retain high-quality educators through a previously proposed bonus program.
- Strengthen & Align Career & Tech Education to Increase Regional Workforce
 - a. Invest in secondary Career & Technical Education (CTE) pathways that align with regional workforce demands

3. Ensure Educational Rights and Safeguards

- Safeguard Parental Notification
 - a. Ensure parents are well-informed about school policies, curriculum, and student progress
- Protect Curriculum Choice & Opt-Out Rights
 - a. Allow parents the freedom to choose or opt-out of educational content, lessons, and assessments in alignment with their needs
- Create Safe & Focused Learning Environments
 - a. Prioritize policy and practices that provide safe and focused learning environments – a ban on personal cell phone use for all students all day.

Food Service Update

We are in the process of understanding what each community that is currently participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) utilizing USDA foods intends to do for the 2025-2026 school year. If Nondalton, Chignik Lake, Perryville, and Levelock are capable/choose to fund this program, we will keep accommodating their decision to do so.

As presented in the work session February 13, 2025 school cook positions cost LPSD \$315,800 not including substitute cook costs which could potentially be \$10,000.

We anticipate a \$165,289.40 endowment withdrawal from the Borough to cover food service costs for FY25 with an additional \$115,00 withdrawal to cover the anticipated deficit of our general fund for FY25 as well. These figures are also explained in the work session documents from today.

Communication has been sent to schools currently participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and utilizing USDA to understand if they intend to keep paying for this program in the 2025-2026 school year (Nondalton, Chignik Lake, Perryville, and Levelock).

PowerSchool Breach Update

PowerSchool plans to notify LPSD parents and students about the recent data breach. In response, LPSD is consulting with a lawyer provided through our cyber-liability insurance carrier. This legal guidance is helping us understand the breach's implications for FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act), required notifications to the Alaska Attorney General, and regulatory reporting to the State of Alaska. After reviewing our cyber policies, the lawyer provided a positive assessment.