

## PETITION ON BEHALF OF THE COMMUNITIES OF THE LAKE AND PENINSULA BOROUGH

We, the undersigned communities of the Lake and Peninsula Borough, demand that the Lake and Peninsula School District (LPSD) office and staff reside in the Lake and Peninsula Borough region. Having the core of the district office move to Palmer was a blindsided move made without the consent of the residents of the Lake and Peninsula Borough. Having the district office located in Palmer negatively impacts the local Lake and Peninsula Borough communities, region, and most of all our students.

**LPSD MISSION STATEMENT** – The Mission of the Lake & Peninsula School District is to develop productive citizens who are positive role models, self-directed learners, academically prepared and resilient. We will accomplish this through our Standards-Based System in a safe, culturally sensitive environment with an emphasis on technology, extended opportunities, and committed partnerships.

**EMPLOYMENT** – Currently, LPSD employees sixteen district office employees

- Ten work in Palmer or remote locations, some being outside of state of Alaska

- Six full time employees work within the Bristol Bay region, and of these six only two within the Lake and Peninsula Borough. (Source: [lpsd.com/contact.html](https://lpsd.com/contact.html)).

That is ten full-time, well-paid jobs for people that live and reinvest wages into Palmer or other cities and not into the Lake and Peninsula Borough (LPB) communities and villages. By continuing to employ LPSD people outside of the Bristol Bay Region, we are failing to sustain and grow our region with viable employment opportunities. This also contributes to the out migration of families and students.

**CULTURE AND IDENTITY**- There is the everyday realization that villages are losing their languages, cultures and our regional identities. Employing people outside of the region only makes this happen faster as people from outside do not understand what it takes to live and thrive in a village/subsistence life style. Due to this disconnect, priorities of the employees not within our region often are not equipped with cultural awareness of what is desired by the residents of the borough.

**COST OF LIVING WAGES** – Another concern that we have as a collective community is the inequity of pay for Palmer employees versus other LPSD employees living in the Bristol Bay region. The cost-of-living index is a lot higher in rural Alaska versus urban or on the road system. In a report put out by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development in July of 2023, the US Military ranked Alaska towns' costs of living in 2023 (excluding housing). With the United States Average used as an index of 100, King Salmon (including Bristol Bay Borough) was ranked as 142 while Palmer's neighboring community of Wasilla was ranked as 128. The cost of living in urban communities is far less than the rural communities as confirmed in this report and should be adjusted for in the pay scales of employees living in these urban settings. The monies that are given to LPSD from the state of Alaska and the LPB are given in trust to LPSD to invest into the communities of LPSD and not into the communities outside our region.

(<https://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/trends-magazine/2023/July/the-cost-of-living-in-alaska>).

**COMMUNICATION** – Communication from the district office personnel to the communities to which they serve is not clear and often nonexistent which has created great distrust of our administration. Less than 10% of LPB residents were aware of the move of the district office from King Salmon to Palmer. In August, most communities within LPSD were once again blindsided with the news that the funding for the school lunch program was not included in the 2024-2025 School Year budget. There was no communication from the district office to help communities to prepare for this major upcoming change prior to August. This is a program that directly benefits students and should not have been on the table as an option to cut.

Chignik Lagoon – Chignik Lake – Chignik Bay – Egegik - Igiugig – Iliamna - Kokhanok – Levelock – Newhalen  
Nondalton – Pedro Bay - Perryville – Pilot Point – Pope & Vannoy Landing - Port Alsworth - Port Heiden - Ugashik

By signing below, I agree and support all the statements listed on page 1 of this petition.

<u>Henry Olyopic</u> Print	<u>[Signature]</u> Sign	<u>President Newhalen</u> Title/Village	<u>10/18/24</u> Date
<u>Patrick Kosbrutz</u> Print	<u>[Signature]</u> Sign	<u>President Village Corp.</u> Title/Village	<u>10/18/24</u> Date
<u>Marty Takak</u> Print	<u>Marty Tall</u> Sign	<u>Chignik Lake president</u> Title/Village	<u>10-18-24</u> Date
<u>George Alex</u> Print	<u>[Signature]</u> Sign	<u>Woo Dalton AK</u> Title/Village	<u>10-14-24</u> Date
<u>Alexander Tallekpaletc</u> Print	<u>Alexander Tallekpaletc</u> Sign	<u>president Levelock</u> Title/Village	<u>10/18/24</u> Date
<u>John Christopher</u> Print	<u>[Signature]</u> Sign	<u>president Port Heiden</u> Title/Village	<u>18 OCT 24</u> Date
<u>Tim Anelon Sr.</u> Print	<u>[Signature]</u> Sign	<u>Pres Diamna AK.</u> Title/Village	<u>10-20-24</u> Date
<u>Loay Guzman</u> Print	<u>[Signature]</u> Sign	<u>Pres City of Egegik</u> Title/Village	<u>10-20-24</u> Date
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