



Date: December 2023
To: Lake and Peninsula School Board
From: Kasie Luke, Superintendent
Re: Report, December 12, 2023

2023 Fall Semester Overview

Board Guidance / Participation – It continues to be 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 2023-2024 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 2023-2024 award winners, Mrs. Michelle Hughes, Mr. Shakim Blackwell, Mrs. Sara Erickson, Mrs. Kate Cornell, Mrs. Sara Erickson, Ms. Marina McGourty and Mr. Christian Meneskie and all those who were nominated!

Enrollment – LPSD has not dropped a significant amount as we have 325 PK-12 students during the FY24 school year so far (FY22 we had 349, FY23 we have 326). We have maintained 10 active community school sites and there are students enrolled in our Lake View Homeschool.

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 Shea Nelson (IGI), Ty Kosbruk (PVL), Shaniqua Harried (NON), Keisha Harried (NON), Pagan Lester (NEW), and Anne Moses (NEW)! In a year of cost saving measures being necessary, we saved about \$35K by only allowing students who qualified for State to attend the regional event.

Volleyball Success - Congratulations to the Tanalian Lynx, Alaska's Mix 6 recipient of the Sportsmanship Award. Thank you for being positive representatives for LPSD and working hard as a team; Teagann Smith, Jordan Alsworth, Ray Chimel, Noah Davis, Noah Opland, Malachi Fowler, Silas Smith, Erik McGee, Hazel Metzgar, Rachel Opland, Brielle Lorentzen and Mikiah Lorentzen with Coach Glen Alswroth Jr and support Darcy Lorentzen.

BBRCCTE – Our BBRCTE program so far this fall allowed 65 students in our Region attend eight different courses. We are so incredibly grateful for the collaboration and consistent growth of CTE opportunities for students in LPSD and in our region. We will continue to foster partnerships and seek sustainable funding for BBRCTE.

Funding – While we still have not received a significant increase in the base student allocation, we are grateful to have received \$340 one time funding outside the Base Student Allocation formula this year. We will keep fighting for State funding in the upcoming legislative session. With CARES Act monies expiring, we are looking at creative cost saving measures that indirectly impact students. We came into FY24 with zero fund balance and have chosen several times to dip into the Lake and Pen Borough endowment monies to support our current efforts while making shifts in our practice without being able to predict increased sustainable funding for our future through the State.

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 and will continue to assess the effectiveness of these programs for our students.

LPSD Distance Inservice - We did not hold any in person inservices this year so far as funding did not allow for these events and there were pros and cons. We do understand the importance of getting our teachers together in person for their professional and personal connectedness and we'll strive to have inperson inservice to begin the 2024-2025 school year.

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 - We continue to function on a Subsistence Calendar, this is year 7 since we have adopted a shortened school year. Consistently in the monthly site reports we are seeking feedback on the calendar and perspective. In the years ahead, considering the budget, and the feedback of the Subsistence Calendar survey we conducted in Fall 2022 where 73% of people who completed the survey were in favor.