

March 31, 2026

Dear Lake and Peninsula School Board,

I am writing to express my support for continuing Kacy Lou Leyba's remote Student Services Coordinator/School Counselor role with Lake and Peninsula School District.

My daughter currently meets with Miss. Leyba on a weekly basis. Whenever she comes home, she tells me about what she has worked on with Miss. Leyba and the new skills she has unlocked to become more confident and emotionally mature. My daughter is very shy with new people, and she doesn't like to open up to people she doesn't know. I know that if my daughter has to start meeting with a new counselor, she will not open up to them as much as she has with Kacy Lou. Consistency in counseling is also a very important concept for me as a parent, and I know that not only would my daughter fail to open up to a new counselor, all of the hard work that she will have put in with Miss. Leyba will at best stagnate and most likely reverse course. Kacy has managed to build a relationship with Matilda over zoom, and she has also traveled to our site and makes a point to make contact with her in person too. Matilda loves Kacy Lou and feels comfortable and confident talking to her. I would like to see that confidence continue.

Kacy Lou is a person who loves to invest in her community and the children she works with on a daily basis. I completely understand the Board's reservations regarding out-of-district employment, however, the quality of the person and the demands of the position both need to be examined as well, not just their physical location - especially when most villages have little to no acceptable housing available for additional staff. Kacy Lou is more qualified to remain in this role, even if it means being remote for a period of time. She possesses more certifications than any new hire or recruit would have, especially one that would be willing to live remotely. Kacy Lou has already cultivated meaningful relationships with many children across the district, my daughter included, by traveling to sites and communicating with children on a weekly basis - more than any other counselor that has been with the district since I moved to Alaska in 2016. The trust she has developed with her students has all been built remotely, with the exception of the village she lives in. I don't want the positive impact that she has had on this district to go away just because she would now be making zoom calls with all of her students in our district, instead of making zoom calls with *almost* all of the students in our district.

Again, I ask the school board to approve Kacy Lou Leyba's contract for her remote Student Services/School Counselor role with Lake and Peninsula School District.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,
Jonathan Ludwig