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Anchorage, AK 99508
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MEMO

To: Board of Trustees
From: Tina Voelker-Ross, Program Officer
Date: February 18, 2026
Addendum: Petersburg Borough School District, Thriving Together:
Collaborative Student Wellness

The following information is provided as an addendum to the Petersburg Borough School District, Thriving Together: Collaborative Student Wellness project, which was reviewed by the Program and Planning Committee in January, 2026 and referred for full board approval. This addendum serves as a follow-up to the committee's discussion and addresses trustees' interest in receiving additional information.



January 26, 2026

Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
3745 Community Park Loop, Suite 200
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

To Whom it May Concern;

I am writing to express the Petersburg Borough's support for the Petersburg School District's application to the Alaska Mental Health Trust for the *Thriving Together: Collaborative Student Wellness* project.

This initiative addresses critical student mental health needs by expanding access to school-based counseling, nursing services, and social-emotional supports. These efforts align with the Borough's commitment to supporting the well-being of our youth and strengthening our community.

The Petersburg Borough fully supports this application and appreciates the Alaska Mental Health Trust's consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Stephen Giesbrecht", written over a horizontal line.

Stephen Giesbrecht
Borough Manager

Petersburg School District

Telephone 877-526-7656
Fax 877-526-7656

P. O. Box 289
Petersburg, Alaska 99833-0289

Robyn Taylor
Superintendent

January 28, 2026

Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
3745 Community Park Loop, Suite 200
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

RE: Clarification on Questions from the AMHT Program & Planning Committee

I am writing to provide further information and clarification regarding a couple of questions that came up during the January 21st committee meeting related to our grant application, “Thriving Together: Collaborative Student Wellness”. Thank you so much for the thoughtful discussion and consideration.

First, the committee asked about the sustainability of our project and if there was an update on our other funding sources that we had listed as *Pending* in our application. I’m very happy to report that we received award confirmation for Alaska DEED SAPP (Suicide Awareness, Prevention, and Postvention) Grant for two more years, July 2026 through June 2028. This grant is approximately \$26,500 per year. The SAPP Grant supports our contracted counseling services, our School Climate and Connectedness Survey, and some supplies and materials for training and lessons. Our third funding source, our General Fund, is still *Pending*, but I’m very confident that it will be approved by our School Board come June. This project perfectly aligns with one of our School Boards four main focus areas under its 2023-2027 Strategic Plan; *Well being of staff and students*.

I feel very optimistic about the future sustainability of our grant project. This project builds on initiatives we have been developing and expanding for many years. We have a long collaborative history with our community partners, specifically Petersburg Medical Center (PMC). Despite funding uncertainties, PMC has remained committed to providing consistent on-site services for our students. The services provided under this project have been developed and made possible over years of partnership through continuous in-kind contributions by both PMC and Petersburg School District, along with periodic grant funding. PMC is strongly committed to strengthening and sustaining our current school based health services.

Second, the committee wanted some further details on the number of people that will be trained under our proposed grant project. The total number we provided was 514, which can be broken up into two categories.

Staff - 49: Signs of Suicide Training

Students - 465: training includes Signs of Suicide, general mental health information including anxiety, depression, and risk factors for suicide, and other SEL such as coping skills and problem solving.

Petersburg Schools will advocate for continuous growth, promote a healthy environment, and provide diverse educational opportunities, where all students achieve

We are grateful for all AMHT does to support health and well being in our communities, and for the opportunity to apply for grant funding. Please reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shannon Baird". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'S'.

Shannon Baird
Finance Director
Petersburg School District