



**Meade River School
SAC Report
April 2025**

Principal Brian Schaffer

SAC Members:

Rodney Lloyd (**President**), Seat 1
Wanda Kippi (**Vice President**), Seat 2
Sherlene Oyagak, Seat 3

Jennie Kippi (**Secretary**), Seat 4
Patricia Itta, Seat 5


Enrollment: 87

Pre-K3: 1	Pre-K4: 6	1 st Grade: 10	2 nd Grade: 5	3 rd Grade: 8
4 th Grade: 12	5 th Grade: 4	6 th Grade: 2	7 th Grade: 10	8 th Grade: 6
9 th Grade: 9	10 th Grade: 4	11 th Grade: 4	12 th Grade: 5	Kinder: 4

Attendance: 71.19% for March. *Our attendance has been in 70-80% mark for the year, but this is below our SAC goal of 90%. It is concerning that our attendance has not met our goal or expectations. We continue SAC discussions on how to increase attendance and have concluded that this must be a community outreach project to truly make a change. We will start the 25-26 school year with a mini workshop during our back-to-school BBQ to begin community wide discussions over the subject of attendance rewards and how parents can help increase our attendance. MRS SAC also will begin discussions with students about the importance of attending school every day. Discussions have been working with a slogan like •"Show Up to Win, Miss Less Than 10!" • "Ten or Less, You'll Find Success!"• "Fewer Than Ten — Be Top Ten!". We are hoping to eventually get to a "To Be Great, Less Than Eight! and looking at ways to print school shirts with these slogans. We are also looking at ways to reward our students that reach our goal of 80% and moving to 90% as we once did with our Eagle's Club. We will be coming to the NSBSD Board of Education for ideas and support to help us reach our goal.*

Staff:

Teachers: 11	Substitute Full-Time: 1
Counselor: 1 Home/School Fac: 1	Substitute Part-Time: 1 aide
Special Education: 1 Teacher 2 Aides	M&O (Facilities/Custodial/Kitchen/Transportation):6
Paraprofessionals: 2, 1 Library (0)	Secretary 1



Highlights: Meade River School is ending school strong. Our overall student test scores have been rising. We are making progress towards our goals of every student reaching goals that are individually set for students. We are continuing our Classrooms on the Nuna with a session on winter camping and observing niglik flocks and trying to call them in to land. We are receiving new gear for our Classrooms on the Nuna to help continue the success of this program.

We are in the middle of our Little Eagle basketball program for our Kindergarten to 6th grade students. We have had great participation and community support. We would like to publicly thank the City of Atkasuk for helping to support this program. We would like to thank all the volunteers who make this program so successful.

We have a SAC that is dedicated to our students and our community and work hard to make our school the best it can be for our students to learn and grow. Our meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month and the community is invited and welcomed to each meeting. We are proud to have a student representative for each meeting and they are encouraged to speak up on the issues presented in each meeting. This student member has been instrumental in allowing us to see the student perspective of ideas discussed but also helped keep us rooted to the objective of high educational standards for all our students. Our most current community/school issue was the idea of banning energy drinks from school. After much discussion and polling each middle and high school student, our SAC has proposed that student's consumption of energy drinks is prohibited during school hours. During the information of this recommendation, the SAC emphasized the detrimental effects of energy drinks on developing bodies as the basis of the new policy.

Our SAC is truly representative of our community in the way it represents all parts of our community, from elders and parents, to help guide us in our decisions. As a SAC we have worked hard to make our group progressive and problem/solution based in our discussions and when a community member has a concern or recommendation, we work through the problem/solution platform to help find solutions and not just present problems or concerns but truly work towards solutions that work for all parties concerned. Our SAC members are open and actively seek our community members or situations that may need a voice to be heard. Our SAC is truly committed to making our school the very best learning environment possible for our students. We will continue to work hard to keep our school moving forward.

As a SAC we set goals and priorities that we present to our principal and help support them in all ways to help them achieve these goals and move our priorities forward.

One great accomplishment for our SAC this year is to finally achieve and move forward on the goal of completion of our remodel by getting our furniture ordered and on its way to MRS. We are thankful to the NSBSD Maintenance and Operation staff for helping us achieve this goal. We have been informed that the furniture will arrive this summer and be in place for the beginning of our 2025-26 school year.


We have been fortunate in having Susan Hope join our school staff twice this year and share her sewing and language skills with our students as well as our community. Special thanks to Susan Hope and the whole Inupiat Department staff in their help to make our school a culturally learning environment.

Another ongoing project that the NSBSD M&O staff are assisting is our Johnny Neakok Playground Project. It is moving forward and hopefully will be completed in the summer of 2026.

Strategic Plan Goal & Pedagogy Implementation:

Family & Community Collaboration

Goal 1: Prioritize and implement intentional and purposeful partnerships.



Meade River School's goal it to make our school a community school. We have been working hard to make our school a comfortable place for the community to visit and make the school available for community wide functions. As with all villages, the school becomes a center for community activities and events as we are the only large venue for any large function. We have had many functions use our school lately such as ASRC for the Inupiat Days and our Golden Ticket movie as a reward for parents that attend PTC. Our School hosted a 3 on 3 basketball event for our Middle and high school students. As a SAC we will continue to strive to make our school a community gathering and educational hot spot.

Culturally Responsive Instruction

Goal 2: All students perform at or above grade level. Our SAC supports our individual learning plans for each student.

Goal 3: All students are prepared for their pathway of choice post-high school. TSP plans are being used throughout our school beginning in Kindergarten to help individualize each student's educational experience.

On our monthly agenda, we ask for a report for culture/language in our schools and receive a monthly report on what is happening with our students.

Meade River School keeps the SAC informed about how our students are performing on their benchmark testing. We encourage all our teachers to have good communications with family and keep all families informed and involved with all our students. We strongly support athletic activities for all levels of our students. We ask for updates on how our seniors are progressing for graduation and what educational opportunities are available for our students.

Goal 4: Graduate bilingual students

The goal of graduating all our students with strong language (both Inupiaq and English) is reflected in our goal of having each student attend ILT classes daily. Our elementary students from ECE to 8th grade attend daily ILT classes with our wonderful ILT Ethel Bobby Aveoganna and classroom teachers are required to attend ILT with their students. Last semester all out high school students attended one period of ILT and this semester most of our high school students choose it as an elective. We are still looking for an upper grade ILT teacher. We have high hopes that this additional teacher will allow us to become more project based to help students use Inupiat in everyday conversation while working. Teachers are continuing to teach the Inupiat Mapkuq lessons as well as daily Pledge of Allegiance in Inupiat first followed by English daily in our school's morning meeting. As students participate in any of our Classrooms on the Nuna programs, Inupiat is used in naming equipment and activities with as much Inupiat language included during the educational programs. A big bonus for our students is when the NSBSD Inupiat Department supporting all our students in their learning goals.

Student Social & Emotional Wellbeing

Goal 5: Facilitate & maintain culturally, emotionally, & physically safe learning environments

Meade River School is proactively continually working on our TAVRA program to help combat bullying. Our program is in its 2nd year of implementation and this year we are working on targeting the students that need support for interpersonal relationships. We have built our TAVRA program around not only identifying bullying and learning how to proactively work to identity bullying and getting help but also working with the students that may need additional interpersonal skills to help minimizing conflict. Our TAVRA program is working but we still have a way to go. We applaud our school for taking a lead role in helping ensure our students have a safe, secure, and positive learning environment.



Staff Support & Professional Development

Goal 6: Build and sustain a thriving workforce aligned with the mission of this District

All our staff is engaged in our Classroom on the Nuna program and actively participate in a leadership role presenting their unique cultural skills and sharing them with our students.

Our Mission: Students who are empowered, culturally rooted, bilingual, healthy, critical, creative, life-long learners.

Financial & Operational Stewardship

Goal 7: Standardize high-functioning, efficient, student-focused operations.

Last year, the SAC was invited to the school budgeting meetings. We very much appreciated this courtesy as it helped up get a better view on some of the financial challenges that face our district as well as ask for input at our school level. Hopefully this policy will continue as it was advantageous to our SAC and community.

Upcoming Events:

Little Eagles Basketball

Graduation Dinner for our graduation seniors and their families to celebrate a meal the night before graduation. This dinner is served by the staff and teachers as a way to honor our graduates. May 2, 6:00 pm.

Graduation Ceremonies for K, 8th grade promotion and graduating seniors. May 3 at 6:00pm

Classrooms on the Nuna: Winter Camp, week of April 28-May 2.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve on the MRS SAC for 15 years. I will be resigning my SAC position during our May 6 SAC meeting. My wonderful wife (Teacher/Counselor Patti) and myself will be retiring the end of this school year. We wish to publicly thank the NSBSD School board and Superintendent Vadiveloo and all the NSBSD staff and the entire village of both Barrow and Atqasuk for making our 27 years here the highlight of our lives. We may be moving to Fairbanks, but our home will forever be Atqasuk. Ouyanaq and not goodbye but see you again.