



Meade River School Advisory Council

P.O Box 91030, 4001 Kippi Street

Atqasuk, AK 99791

Phone: 907-633-5800

SAC Meeting

First Tuesday of Every Month

5:00 PM

School Board Mission Statement

Learning in our schools is rooted in the values, history and language of the Iñupiat. Our priority, purpose and responsibility is to partner with families and community to provide high-quality education resulting in students that are...

- Critical and creative thinkers able to adapt in a changing environment and world;
- Active, responsible, contributing members of their communities; and
- Confident, healthy young adults, able to envision, plan and take control of their destiny.

Meade River School Mission Statement

Meade River School challenges learners to become critical and creative thinkers by developing their academic and cultural skills while nurturing their social-emotional wellbeing. We believe this helps our students become respectful, responsible, and cooperative community citizens.

SEAT 1

Rodney Lloyd

President

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EXP - 10/24

SEAT 2

Wanda Kippi

Vice President

EXP - 10/26

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SEAT 3

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SEAT 4

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SEAT 5

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Member

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EXP-10/24

Good morning to the NSBSD School Board president and members of the board. It is my pleasure to share with you our SAC work with the Meade River School students and staff. We have a very productive SAC and we are happy with our working relationship with our community and school as we work towards a truly community-based school.

I am the president of Meade River School SAC and have proudly served for 13 years, 7 as president. We have a very stable SAC with most members with at least 4 years' experience. We are proud of our students and our school.

Our current enrollment is 89 students from ECE to 12th grade. We have 6 seniors that are working towards graduation this year. We have 12 teachers with one open teaching position due to a recent resignation, 5 support staff and 8 M&O staff positions. We are sad to have our Ethel Burke leave our staff due to family needs but Bobbie Aveoganna is stepping in to our class and doing a great job!

We are also thankful and enjoy those NSBSD directors and staff that join our meeting virtually. We are always happy to get input and have them share their expertise

and clarification on matters that involve our school or community, We feel well supported from the NSBSD administration and board.

Our most recent and most important project is our Atqasuk Playground Project. This project was brought to the Meade River School SAC and supported by Steve Cropsey, NSBSD M&O director. Meade River School SAC began to pursue the project of rejuvenating our playground aided by the City of Atqasuk and the Native Village of Atqasuk who added funding for this project. This has been a wonderful example of how our community comes together when it comes to helping our children to have a great place to learn and grow.

In December we hosted an Architect to help with planning and design of this project. Elise Huggins came to our village for three days to get input from the community and students for the design of the playground. She hosted input sessions in both the school and our community center. Our students gave her pages and pages of notes and shared many ideas and wants. With a notebook full of ideas and specifications, she returned to Anchorage to complete her design. Mrs. Huggins submitted three different plans to our community. For two weeks, MRS showcased the three plans for input from both our community and our students. Once the voting and comments were compiled, we submitted the voting results and had one overwhelming choice but had a few minor changes and additions. With this, she submitted a revised plan for approval. With SAC approval, the process is moving forward.

As a SAC, we will continue to work with Jill Crooks and Steve Cropsey to push this project with hopes to be able to ship the components on the CWAT trail to save on shipping. Our very hopeful completion date is by the end of this summer.

We have also had some community input with suggestions and interest in naming our Play Ground after a very important person from our Village that has had strong ties to Meade River School for as long as there has been a school in Atqasuk. We are actively pursuing the NSBSD Board directives to name our playground after an influential and beloved member from our community. Again, we would like to thank the NSBSD M&O Department, Steve Cropsey and Doug Whiteman, our mayor, for their continuous support to make this project happen for our students.

The Meade River School SAC is continuing to be an active part of our Community and School Expectation Agreement. We review the progress every meeting during our Principal Report. Mr. Schaffer continually seeks the advice and guidance to help guide the important process and procedures that help to bring our community into our school.

The area we are most concerned with is attendance. The district's goal was 80% and we set the Meade River School Goal at 90%. We are not there yet, but are actively working and seeking advice from our students and community members towards reaching this goal.

Another area of concern is our Cell Phone Policy. We are having great success with our k-6 and the No Cell Phone at School Policy but continue to struggle with our middle school and high school. We will continue to support our school to help to use technology as an aide to education and not a distraction from learning.

We have asked that the Community School Expectation Agreement be brought before the monthly SAC meeting to make this a living document and keep working towards making our Meade River School a true community school.

As a SAC, we would like to acknowledge Mr. Schaffer and our school's staff for the routine of a whole school morning meeting. Our students start each day with a prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance in both Inupiat and English, the Inupaiq Value of the month, and any announcement pertinent to the day. It is with great pride that we see our student begin to take the ownership of this meeting by our students from kindergarten through high school lead both the prayer and the pledge. Our students are finding their voice and practicing public speaking. Well done Eagles!

Our Meade River School SAC is happy to report that most of our teachers and staff will be returning for the 2024-2025 school year. A stable staff is best for our students. After major testing events, our principal, Mr. Schaffer reports on the result. We have a lot of ground to make up since the Covid times and look forward to a stable staff to help move our students to where we want them to be, to where we know they can perform. We believe in our students and want great things for them in their lives. We believe that high expectations will help them achieve more and help them to be successful.

We have been successful in having a student member join each SAC meeting to give us insight and help to guide us to make our school great. We would like to thank Caitlyn Kippi, Andrea Brower, Corey Ahmaogak-Kippi, Frances Itta, and RileiAnne Kingik for joining our meetings and sharing their opinions and expertise. They all added to rich conversations as well as add their voice in decisions towards making our school a great place to learn.

As a SAC, we have asked that our school continue to provide cultural experience during the school year. We would like to continue and expand our Classrooms on the Nuna. We would like to restart our High School Fall Hunting trip and expand to a goose hunting trip. We have always had an ice fishing field trip for our school and would like to obtain more equipment and fishing tents to expand this cultural experience. As a SAC, we support our school encouraging place based and cultural experience for our students.

Meade River School experienced ASRC Day on February 5th and 6th to share fun and educational experience with our students. Our students were treated with a basketball camp the evening of February 5th. A good time was had by all and we are all thankful for the experience.

Meade River School has begun our anti-bullying program. Our school Counselor, Patti Lloyd has been sharing anti-bullying techniques in our TAVRA program (**T**radition **A**ttitude **V**alues **R**espect **A**nti-bullying) to help students with strategies to help resolve problems in a positive way. Each student is working towards receiving a TAVRA shirt and wear them proudly on targeted days to show support of our No Bullying Policy at Meade River School. To earn their shirt, the student will need to rectie all 12 of the Inupiat Values. Our anti-bullying program is tied very closely with the Inupiat Values and is showing signs of helping students with coping strategies. The end results will be to create a poster like our PBIS posters that post these strategies in the Respect, Responsible and Cooperative realms.

Meade River School has had Ilisagvik College and Qatqinniagvik join with our school to bring educational opportunities for our students. We have had welding classes, HAZWOPPER and CDL and Drives Education classes to help our extend our student learning opportunities.

We have had students attend the RLC in Utqiagvik for extended classes. All these opportunities offer a greater educational experience for our students and we would like to thank those entities for sharing knowledge and opportunity with our deserving students.

One constant agenda item for our SAC meetings is to continue to push for our new student and school furniture that is still awaited from our remodel in 2020. Our M&O Plant Manager has continued keep us updated and recently Jill Crooks has joined in the process. We feel confident that we will receive this item from our Covid interrupted remodel process.

Meade River School SAC would like to publicly thank the City of Atqasuk for supporting our Little Eagles basketball program. This intra mural progressive basketball program is for kindergarten through 6th grade students. Their support makes supplies, uniforms and league clothing possible. These Saturday games are some of the most attended programs of our school year. Through community and staff volunteers we are able to serve more than 50 of our youngest athletes.

We are very thankful to our community for the support they give our school. We have had a good showing of community members attending the SAC meetings this year to discuss problems and help to find solutions. I personally feel very fortunate to be a part of this team and the way they work tirelessly to help to make our school the very best it can be.

Thank you for your time and support and we will continue to work to make our school a true community school helping to guide our young students to become leaders and successful community members. Quyanaq from the Proud Meade River School SAC, Go Eagles!

