

Administrative Report

Superintendent David Vadiveloo

Utuqqanaavut kisuigukkitka – sivulliit utuqqanaallu, panmami utuqqanaagiravullu, utuqqanaagugumaaqtuallu. Quyanagitka panmamuraglaan aullatimmagit savaktivut ilininaqtuagiravullu. Nalunaigunmigiga sulii iinuuniaguutilaaqput savaguutilaaqpullu nunanjinii Inupiat. Igliqtitchirauvluta minuaqtugvinjik kamasuuttaigigikput ikayuiyumiinaqapta tamatkunani nunani.

Members of the Board and community, we start with a big “Quyanagpak!” to the community of Anaktuvuk Pass for hosting our Board meeting and showing their wonderful hospitality. Thanks also to our M&O staff here and our CO IT staff for preparing the building and setting up this Board meeting. As an Administration we commence each formal meeting in this District by recognizing our community Elders and their strength, guidance and legacy. Earlier this month, we participated in a critical Summit to discuss the social and emotional wellbeing of our students and community. We were reminded at that meeting of the vital importance of collaboration, respect and the importance of working together to achieve the best outcomes for our community. So we start by acknowledging Elders, past, present and emerging, for their ongoing guidance and wisdom and restate that as an administration we are blessed and honored to work and live on the self-determined sovereign lands of the Inupiaq people.

We’ve started the new school year strongly again, with exciting AKStar test results showing that due to the investment and direction of our Board, our students growth is now faster than the state average. District staff have been busy providing support, traveling out to sites to assist with curriculum, in-services, interventions, tech support and maintenance. With that in mind I’d like to present to the Board and our community the following highlights by way of an update on District operations mapped against our new Strategic goals and objectives.

Domain: Family & Community Collaboration

Goal: Prioritize and implement intentional and purposeful partnerships.
Our partnerships with community were exemplified this past 2 months.

COMMUNITY TOWN HALL VISITS – Our first town hall visit for the year occurred in Tikiq last week to discuss the school calendar and possible options to create a more culturally aligned calendar. It was a great success with over 100 adults, parents and guardians attending plus a large number of students. Conversation was supportive and lots of good questions were asked and answered during the meeting. Our next town hall is this evening in Anaktuvuk Pass and throughout the year we will hold meetings in all other communities.

STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS - Student Services and CO worked across the summer in collaboration with NSB and ASNA to develop the Agenda for the NSB Health Summit.

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The Summit provided an opportunity for open and important dialogue about what our community needs in terms of behavioral health supports. The Summit placed a spotlight on much needed services for our students and allowed the District to explain the services we are providing as well as the areas we are needing more support for our students. We thank NSB for organizing the event and we thank our Board members who attended for their support and insights offered during the Summit and in particular during breakout sessions.

The School District's partnership with NSB continues to strengthen and as we speak there is an NSB Health program visiting our schools and last week NSB CIPM confirmed they will fastrack the implementation of school entrance security systems. In addition we want to shout out to NSB Public Works for assisting us with several projects that required additional specialist trade support.

NUNAAQQIURAT TUMITCHIADIT STEERING COMMITTEE meeting was held last week. Conversations focused on the next three years and ensuring that stakeholder collaborations and focus areas for educational growth outcomes remained intact. In that regard our MOA with ICAS has now moved to final discussion between legal teams.

Domain: Culturally Responsive Instruction

Goal: All students perform at or above grade level

AKSTAR RESULTS: The results from last years AKSTAR English language arts and mathematics assessment results, and Science assessments will be discussed in this Board meeting. Strong growth in our elementary grades is further powerful evidence of the success of targeted interventions that have been supported by this Board. These results will be sent home to parents in coming weeks. To support our families the results will include an explanatory letter and a parent guide. And as always, for anyone with questions, or who needs more information, please feel free to contact your child's teacher.

UQAUTILUDA IÑUPIATUN IMMERSION PROGRAM held its family kickoff meeting this month, including a refresh of parent agreements, setting expectations, and outlining a schedule for year-round language sessions and parent potlucks. The new immersion grade 1 at IPK has started strongly with broad community support for the program getting stronger each year, demonstrated by the enrollment into the program of students from families of many of the leaders of our region.

CLASSROOMS ON THE NUNA: Another successful classroom on the Nuna was rolled out in Atqasuk and we will be working with recently retired Mr Lloyd to support a proposed rollout of this program at 3 or 4 new sites through the year and also for the start of next year.

TUTORING SUPPORTS: After school tutoring starts up in the next month and will be directed at the building level. We will also be starting Amplify high-dose tutoring during

school hours in the next month, prioritizing sites that have yet to hire a full time interventionist, and then by student need. Students in grades K-5 will receive three 30 minute sessions per week, provided by fully trained reading tutors, in small groups over Zoom.

mCLASS and MAP TESTING: As we maintain our focus on high expectations and responsive instruction that addresses much needed learning growth, the Beginning of the year assessment window for mClass testing (which assesses grades K-3 literacy), and MAP Growth (which assesses grades 3-12 Reading, Language Usage, Math) opened in the first week of September. Students will be completing the assessment throughout the month. Teachers will be analyzing the data immediately and using it to further tailor their instruction for the remainder of the semester.

Goal: All students are prepared for their pathway of choice post-high school

CTE & VOC-ED: The first round of intensives commence in a week. This intensive period will offer two weeks in two pathways at the QLC in construction and healthcare. Each group of students will be invited back later in the year to continue their skill development. We've also recently received the new year's schedule of courses from Alaska EXCEL and plan to continue working with them for pathways which we aren't yet able to offer. We also have a meeting scheduled with BBRCTE (Bristol Bay Region Career & Technical Education) to talk about potential partnership opportunities. We are also excited to be finalizing plans with ANSEP for a District wide middle school academy program. Once finalized, students will travel to Anchorage for an intensive ANSEP academy week.

Goal: Graduate bilingual students

UQAUTILUᑕA IᑕᑕUᑕIATUN IMMERSION PROGRAM: All three Uqautiluᑕa Iᑕᑕupiatun Immersion Program classrooms at Ipalook have had a great start to the school year. As we continue to grow local teachers for our classes, we have continued monthly MAP gatherings as part of the implementation of the Iᑕᑕupialᑕusisa! Mentor-Apprentice Program, providing structured language immersion opportunities for apprentices to advance fluency.

Domain: Student Social & Emotional Wellbeing

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

TUMITCHIAT SIVUNMUN PLANS (TSP): We have officially commenced the new 7th period advisement period district-wide that will allow the Tumitchiat Sivunmun plans to be facilitated. The Tumitchiat Sivunmun Plan (TSP) period commenced with a Wayfinder SEL curriculum and we are about to expand the program this week to introduce YouScience which will offer students interest inventories and career planning support. Like any new district wide offering, there were some teething challenges with the period but the majority of students and teachers have responded positively to this unified period that allows secondary students district wide to meet every Friday. This period will be used throughout the year to deliver an expansive range of courses including much needed SEL initiatives, online career advice and fairs, financial literacy and more.

STUDENT WELLBEING: Our student services team has a new look and new personnel with a dedicated SEL focus being added to the traditional oversight of SPED. Thanks to the support of the Board in this critical space for our students wellbeing, we now have a Counselor Coordinator supporting all guidance counselors district wide, a new social worker who has already spent time in Kali and we are in the process of setting up a new direct support line for students to call if they are in distress which will allow us to connect Students to necessary clinical or therapeutic services offered by NSB and ASNA.

Domain: Staff Support & Professional Development

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

NEW DIRECTOR IN HR: Our new HR Director Jullie Griffith has joined our leadership group with over a decade of organizational leadership, employee relations, and strategic HR management.

RECRUTING: The staffing picture is similar to last year with strong early recruiting last Spring tapering off toward the start of the school year. We started the year about 10% short of full teacher staffing and have been filling gaps with Long Term Subs and class consolidation where necessary. Likewise in the classified staffing space we continue to advertise but local employment for all organizations slope-wide remains a challenge.

ALL-HIRE TEACHER IN-SERVICE: All hire in-service seems a long time ago but we opened the teacher year in August with our first all-hire in-service for many many years and established a unified foundation of expectations, training, and collaboration at the outset of the school year. The event was a great success with Board members present to meet with staff and attend sessions and lots of positive staff feedback and lots of opportunities for certified staff to engage with colleagues across the District, fostering professional networks and enhancing subject-specific collaboration.

The HR team is now focused on year-round recruiting, rolling our mandatory trainings and continuing integration of systems and processes to align with the Finance Department.

Domain: Financial & Operational Stewardship

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

AUDIT: The FY25 Financial Audit is just about complete and while the report is not finalized, we are eagerly anticipating that it will once again have no findings. Altman, Rogers, & Co. will be presenting the FY25 Audited Financial Statement in October. Due to a delay from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in issuing Federal Compliance information, the District may have to issue the Financial Statements separate from the Federal Compliance, but we do not see this delay affecting the operations of the District.

UTILITIES INCREASE: All residents of the North Slope have been feeling the pain of recent Barrow Utilities & Electric Coop, Inc. (BUECI) rate increases and the District is no exception. BUECI increased their rates and removed the 10% discount for early payment

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starting in the spring of this last year. This change will create an increase of approximately \$400,000 in electricity, gas, and water costs for the District. This increase will need to be included in a Budget revision that will be presented to the Board this winter/spring.

DIGITIZATION PROJECT: The Business Office file digitization project is complete! Across many months the NSBSD's microfiche has been converted into PDFs and will now be organized in the District's secure shared drive. This project will create efficiencies in reviewing older files that were kept on film and were time consuming to search and would have degraded over time.

NEW DIRECTOR IN M&O: In M&O, our new Director Barry Broome has hit the ground running. Director Broome is currently running a series of audits across many aspects of M&O to assess strengths and gaps. He spent the afternoon and into the evening yesterday with Dr Bolen and myself in AKP and will be visiting all villages. Director Broome has also maintained the strong relationship with the NSB and is already moving lots of action items forward to ensure our students and staff have the best facilities possible in the shortest timeframe manageable.

INNOVATION IN IT: And finally, the Quintillion subsea fiber optic cable repair has been successfully completed as of early September 2025. However we want to make a special note of the innovative work of our IT team during this fiber outage. Many of you will have noticed how our schools were able to open and operate close to normally thanks to a SpeedFusion system that was deployed by the IT department. Their response ensured that instruction, online testing, communications, and district operations continued without major disruption during the extended outage. This represents a significant IT achievement for the district, and demonstrates how innovative solutions can sustain critical services and safeguard learning in the face of regional infrastructure challenges. Thanks to Director Santos and team IT!

In closing

Schools are all open and running smoothly and our Slope wide attendance of 77% in the first few weeks shows another school year starting with upward growth. Our minimum attendance goal of 80% is well within reach with 8 sites at or above 78% attendance and Kali sitting at 90% for the month of August!

To all our staff - directors, departments, custodians, transportation, food services, to our families, community leaders, and students – all to those who collaborate with us to bring a better and brighter educational experience to all our students, every day – Quyanapqak! To our Board thank you for continuing to provide clear guidance and support to achieve the Mission you have set out so clearly for our District. We are always stronger together and as a District we are proud to work for you and walk beside you and your children every day to help make the future better for all.

End report DSV