Aḷak School
School Board Report
10/16/2026

Principal: Todd Thompson
Assistant Principal: Harlee Harvey

CSAC Members: (Indicate which member is President, Vice President, Secretary)

Jennie R Bodfish, Seat 1
Stella A. Ahmaogak, Seat 2, President
Edna Bodfish, Seat 3
VACANT, Seat 4
Janet Carson, Seat 5, Vice President

Enrollment: 129

Pre-K3: 4	Pre-K4: 7	Kindergarten: 8	1st Grade: 7	2nd Grade: 10
3rd Grade: 10	4th Grade: 9	5th Grade: 10	6th Grade: 8	7th Grade: 6
8th Grade: 13	9th Grade: 8	10th Grade: 9	11th Grade: 9	12th Grade: 11

Attendance: 75.24% average for SY26 as of October

Staff:

Teachers:
Kathy Bodfish - Elementary Inupiaq
Dr. Deb Becker - ECE
Anna Mekki - K
Machiavellia Etsity - 1/2
Maricar Sarino - 3/4
Victoria Louis - 5th
Rebekah Chapman - Middle School
Rebecca Bhasme - Middle School
Stephen Carroll - HS Social Studies
Daisy Esguerra - HS Math/Art
Todd Thompson (TOR) - HS ELA
Stephanie Ahmaogak - MS/HS Inupiaq
Ty Graham - HS Science
Trina Wright - Interventionist

Para Professionals:
Jennie Bodfish - Secretary
Cindy Ahmaogak - Receptionist
Elsie Bodfish Ahmaogak - Home/School Facilitator
Raquel Ahmaogak-Nayakik - ECE para
Jerry Bodfish - Elementary para
Linda Nayakik - Elementary para
Estella Phillips - Elementary para
Jane Sielak - SpEd para

Special Education:

	Lisa Cline - Elementary / Harold Cabatingan - Secondary
M&O (Facilities/Custodial/Kitchen): Stanley Brower - Plant Manager Enoch Oktollik - Facilities Stacey Osborn - Facilities Phoebe Kippi - Janitor James Griffin - Janitor Lisa Bodfish - Janitor Rosetta Nayakik - Facilities Alex Harvey - Bus Driver Tymon Driggs - Head cook Kevin Gunderson - Cook's Helper Tera Phillips - Cook's Helper	

Highlights: (School, SAC Meeting, – Refer to SAC Report Expectations)

Support from staff

Wainwright CSAC Update

During our first CSAC meeting of the year, members recognized the significant improvements in **Maintenance and Operations**. The building and staff housing are being well maintained, communication between Maintenance, school administration, and the community has improved, and the addition of a new PM and Maintenance II employee has helped significantly reduce outstanding Asset Essentials work orders. CSAC members expressed appreciation for the condition of the school and the responsiveness of the Maintenance team.

CSAC also recognized the exceptional involvement of our teaching staff in the Wainwright community. Teachers are attending community events, leading student clubs, providing after-school tutoring, and volunteering to support home athletic events at a level we have not experienced in many years. We are grateful for staff members who are investing in our students beyond the school day and becoming active members of the community.

CSAC Membership Concern

Wainwright CSAC has also identified a significant concern regarding its ability to maintain a functioning council. Under the current rules restricting school employees from serving on the CSAC, there are no eligible community members currently running to fill the positions that will be vacated by departing members. As a result, Wainwright may no longer have sufficient membership to maintain a functioning CSAC.

This is an important concern for our school and community, as CSAC provides a valuable connection between families, community members, school administration, and the District. A letter from CSAC President Stella Anasogak outlining the council's concerns is attached for the Board's review and consideration**. (*Letter on last page of Report*)**

BAG Partnership and Support

We would also like to recognize our BAG members for their continued support, guidance, and commitment to our school. Their feedback and community perspective are invaluable as we work together to make decisions that best serve our students, families, and the Wainwright community. We greatly appreciate their partnership and their continued dedication to helping our school provide meaningful opportunities and the best possible educational experience for our students.

Ty Graham, Deborah Becker, Jennie Bodfish and Alex Harvey

Strategic Plan Goal & Pedagogy Implementation:

Goal 1: Prioritize and implement intentional and purposeful partnerships.

Building School and Community Connections

We began the school year by bringing our school and community together for a Community/School Barbecue on the beach on August 15th. It was a wonderful opportunity for our staff to connect with students, families, and community members in a relaxed and welcoming environment. Sharing a meal, visiting with families, and simply spending time together allowed our staff to strengthen existing relationships and build new ones. Events like this reinforce the importance of family and community partnerships and help create a strong sense of connection between our school and the community we serve. We also had a Bingo night on September 19th where most members of the community came and enjoyed spending time together.







Cross Country Success

On August 24, our school community came together to support our student-athletes during the Virtual Cross Country Meet. With a decorated bus and plenty of school spirit, staff, students, and supporters proudly cheered on our XO athletes as they competed.

We are especially proud to celebrate **Kaden Ahmaogak and Scarlett Bodfish**, who qualified for the **State Cross Country Meet**. Their accomplishment reflects their hard work, determination, and commitment, and we are incredibly proud to have them represent our school at the state level.





Olgoonik Corporation – Student Opportunities

Our high school students, along with students from Qargi, had the opportunity to meet with Moire Bockenstedt and Jaime M. Gonzales from Olgoonik Corporation. Students learned about Olgoonik Foundation scholarships, vocational awards, and the new youth showcase opportunity, while also discussing their individual interests, goals, and future aspirations.

The visit provided students with valuable information about resources available to support their **college, vocational, and career pathways**. We greatly appreciate Olgoonik Corporation's partnership and commitment to encouraging and investing in the future of our students.







Culturally Responsive Instruction

Our middle school and high school students had a Wonderful Time with Classrooms on the Nuna. We were able to spend 2 days on the Nuna. August 27th and August 28th.

Alak School's first COTN session was a great success, with strong participation from both high school and middle school students. Staff worked collaboratively to set up the tents on the Nuna and prepare the camp for student learning activities.

A highlight of the experience was the reciprocal learning between students and teachers. Students were in their element on the Nuna, confidently sharing their cultural knowledge and experiences with staff while also learning from their teachers. This created meaningful opportunities for student leadership, ownership, and culturally connected learning.

Camp equipment and communication systems performed well despite challenging weather conditions. Students also assisted with breaking down and properly storing equipment, building skills and ownership for future camps.

Community response was positive, and student feedback will be used to strengthen planning for the **2027 COTN session**.







Strengthening Iñupiaq Language Learning

We continue to strengthen Iñupiaq language learning and bilingual education opportunities across all grade levels. Kathy Bodfish, our Elementary Iñupiaq teacher, and Stephanie Ahmaogak, our new Middle and High School Iñupiaq teacher, are providing students with consistent opportunities to develop their language skills and deepen their connection to culture and community.

Students are also actively working in **Ivalu**, providing additional opportunities to practice and strengthen their Iñupiaq language skills. By combining classroom instruction with Ivalu, students are able to continue building their language knowledge through multiple learning experiences.

Our goal is to create a strong continuum of Iñupiaq language learning from elementary through high school, supporting students as they develop **language proficiency, cultural knowledge, and a strong connection to their community**.

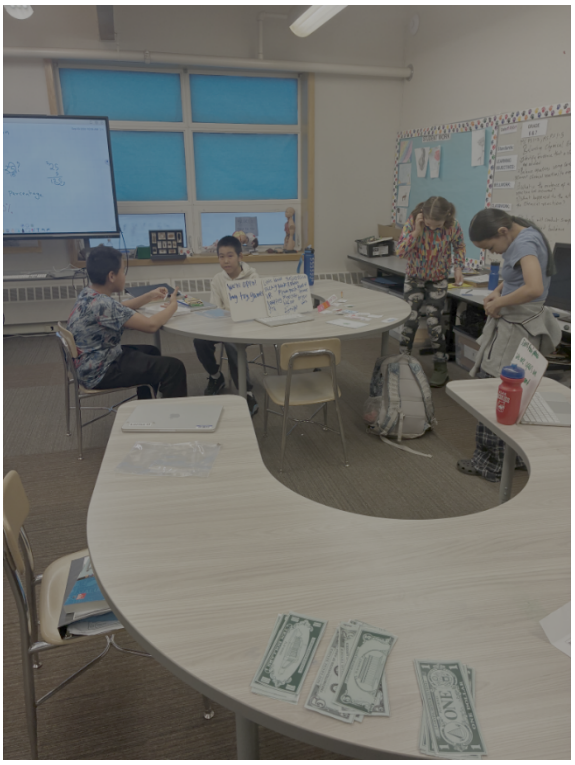
Goal 2: All students perform at or above grade level

Our students continue to demonstrate a strong commitment to learning, growth, and discovery. Our teachers are equally committed, dedicating significant time and effort to creating meaningful learning experiences that respond to students' individual needs while encouraging their natural curiosity. Throughout our classrooms, there are many examples of engaged learning, thoughtful instruction, collaboration, and students taking an active role in their education. Together, our students and staff are building a learning environment where curiosity is encouraged, growth is celebrated, and every student is supported in reaching their potential.

Hands-On Learning – Middle School Math and Science

Ms. Bhasme, our Middle School Math and Science teacher, continues to create **engaging, hands-on learning experiences that bring academic concepts to life**. Through a classroom "student store," students applied practical skills by creating, pricing, and selling items, including student-made "cheeseburgers" and sticky hands. Administration had the opportunity to visit the store and participate as customers, allowing students to demonstrate their learning in an authentic and enjoyable setting.

Ms. Bhasme is also expanding students' exposure to **STEM and potential career pathways** through the use of a flight simulator. These experiences provide students with opportunities to problem-solve, apply mathematical and scientific concepts, build confidence, and explore learning beyond traditional classroom instruction. Most importantly, students are actively engaged and discovering that learning can be both meaningful and exciting.



Goal 3: All students are prepared for their pathway of choice post-high school

CTE Intensives

Our middle and high school students had valuable opportunities to participate in **CTE Intensives coordinated by Mr. Mingneau and Ms. Fisher**. Students engaged in hands-on learning experiences in **Photography, Video and Production, and Small Engines**, providing opportunities to develop practical skills while exploring potential career pathways.

PK3 & PK4 – Learning Through Real-World Experiences

Dr. Deb continues to provide our PK3 and PK4 students with meaningful, hands-on learning experiences that connect classroom instruction to the world around them. Students prepared meals together and later visited the hotel, where they learned about different jobs and experienced a restaurant/hospitality setting firsthand.

These experiences allowed students to practice important early life skills, including **communication, collaboration, independence, and appropriate social interaction**. Dr. Deb has created a classroom environment centered on learning together, where even our youngest students are developing confidence, working cooperatively with their classmates, and learning how to communicate their needs and ideas.

Her approach demonstrates the value of connecting early childhood education with authentic, real-world experiences that make learning engaging and meaningful for students.





Goal 4: Graduate bilingual students

Strengthening Iñupiaq Language Learning

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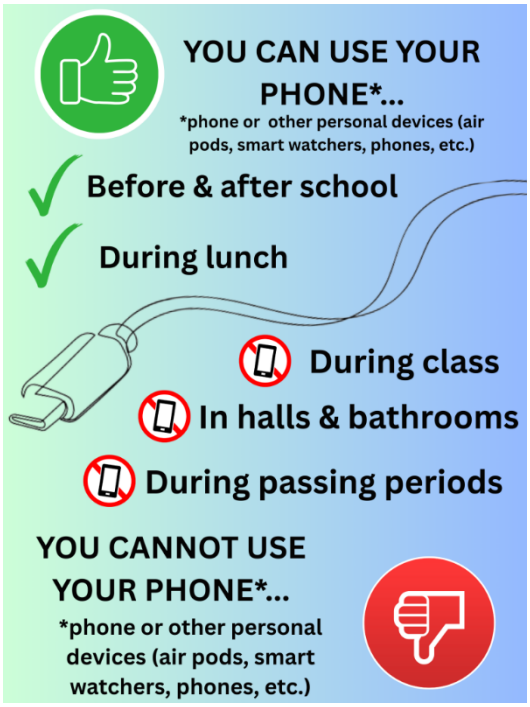
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Student Social & Emotional Wellbeing

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

- We again started our "Students of the Week" and started our Perfect Attendance Initiative with our students - those who were above 80% received a Perfect Attendance Award.
- "No Cell Bell-to-Bell" has been fully implemented in the elementary, middle school and high school levels of the building. Last year, we had "No Cell Bell-to-Bell" in the elementary and middle school, but we have now implemented that policy for all of our grade levels. If students are found with cell phones out in class, administration takes cell phones for the rest of the day.



Staff Support & Professional Development

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

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

Cultural Learning and Staff Engagement

On **August 29**, our staff participated in meaningful **cultural and place-based learning experiences** designed to strengthen their connection to the community and enhance culturally responsive practices within our school. Activities included **meal preparation and cooking, storytelling, sewing, berry picking on the land, and an introduction to the Ivalu program**.

Staff also viewed **Project Chariot**, providing important historical context and an opportunity to deepen their understanding of the community, its history, and the importance of local knowledge and perspectives.

These experiences provided valuable opportunities for our staff to **learn from community knowledge, engage with local traditions, and strengthen their understanding of the students and families we serve**. This continued learning supports stronger relationships and helps staff bring greater cultural awareness and relevance into their classrooms.

Expanded Academic Support and Tutoring

- We are expanding academic support opportunities to ensure students receive the additional assistance they need to be successful. Rebecca Bhasme, Harold Cabatingan, Daisy Esguerra and Ty Graham are providing targeted **Tier 3 after-school support** for students requiring more intensive academic intervention.

- In addition, Rebekah Chapman provides weekly homework assistance for middle and high school students seeking additional support with assignments and coursework.

- These services strengthen our system of student support by providing targeted intervention as well as accessible academic assistance beyond the regular school day. We appreciate the commitment of our staff members who are investing additional time to help students build skills, strengthen confidence, and experience academic success.



<u>Financial & Operational Stewardship</u>

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

As Principal, I will continue working closely with our Assistant Principal to review school operations and ensure that our practices effectively support students, staff, and families. Together, we will identify and maintain the systems and programs that are working well while addressing areas that need to be strengthened or refined. Our focus will remain on continuous improvement, effective school operations, strong instructional support, and creating the best possible learning environment for every student.

Upcoming Events:

Volleyball - October 9th and 10th

Culinary Intensive - October 19th through October 23rd

Welding Intensive - October 26th through October 30th

CSAC Meetings - first Wednesday of the Month

Wednesday, September 30, 2026

To whom it may concern:

We are writing with concerns that we will not have an active CSAC here at Aḷak School due to the new restrictions on eligibility.

For SY26, Seat 4 was vacant for the entire school year. It was previously held by Anna Mekki, who could not run again due to her status as a staff member. Ms. Mekki shared that she would have continued serving in this role had she not been prohibited from doing so. Presently, the seat has been vacant going on two years.

For SY27, we have Seats 1 and 3 open. Seat 1 is currently filled by Jennie Bodfish, a Aḷak School staff member. Despite proper posting, regular announcements and efforts to solicit for candidates, we did not have any interested candidates come forward. Jennie Bodfish would be interested in serving again but is also ineligible due to her status as a school employee.

We are concerned that we will not have an active CSAC, representing the needs and interests of our school and community. Our CSAC has played a vital role in the advisement of school leadership and advocacy of our kids. This relationship is invaluable to the proper functioning of our school as we work collaboratively to meet the needs of our students.

Being in a smaller community, we do not have a large pool of potential candidates available. We feel that denying the opportunity for school staff to serve unfairly limits our ability to have a functioning Community School Advisory Council.

We request that you remove the provision that staff members cannot serve on a Community School Advisory Committee.

Thank you for your consideration,

Stella Anasogak

Aḷak School CSAC President