

Administrator Report

Superintendent Office - Pauline Harvey

First of all, as this is School Board Appreciation Month, I would like to thank the NSBSD BOE for their consistent support of the students and staff. Your advocacy and support is much appreciated, especially in the midst of this most unusual year of the pandemic.

A Town Hall Meeting was held on Wednesday, February 3rd at 6:00 p.m. The information gleaned from the community was noted and the Barrow principals are using the information in their planning for the re-opening of schools in Barrow. A SAC meeting was also held on Thursday, February 4th to review re-opening plans. The administration and the Barrow principals also meet on February 5th to incorporate into their planning the recommendations of the community. A Barrow Covid Response Team Meeting will ensue taking these important recommendations from the community into application of their plan.

We held our audit report with the NSB Assembly on Monday, February 1st with CFO Limani and Christine Krazinsky. Our audit held no findings and was well received by the NSB Assembly and Mayor.

With the severe wind chill temperatures across the slope we have had at least one school closure due to low visibility and extreme temperatures. The process of reporting to the state and identifying the make-up date was done in accordance with state requirements.

We are in full swing with the State Peaks Assessment planning with Kim Neakok at helm. Our district is using the on-line version of the test, hence the need for preparation with the IT department and the principals, especially in the midst of the pandemic. We have not heard any indication that it will not happen.

We have begun discussions with the NSB in preparation for the FY22 budget. This process will take some time to iron out our needs and the challenges that the entire state is facing with declining populations and funding from the state, however we will remain optimistic.

One of the challenges we have in our region is aging infrastructure and we also have many M&O issues that are safety related that we need to address. Our hope again is to have a meeting with the NSB to address an MOA and also assistance with the lengthy list of needs we have at each site.

The Iļisaġvik College received confirmation from the North Slope Borough Assembly on February 2, 2021 for the appointment of Nora Jane Burns as the NSBSD Seat for the Board of Trustees. Congratulations Board Member Burns!

COVID-19 Update - Lisa Peterson

Current school safety risk status are as follows:

- Nunamiut School, Anaktuvuk Pass has remained on “Yellow” COVID 19 Safety Risk Status since January 19.
- Kali School, Point Lay, has remained on “Yellow” COVID 19 Safety Risk Status since January 19.
- Meade River School, Atqasuk has remained on “Yellow” COVID 19 Safety Risk Status since January 19. The Village of Atqasuk was on a Hunker Down order that was instituted on January 5, 2021 and it expired on January 14, 2021.
- Nuiqsut Trapper School, which went to “Red” COVID 19 Safety Risk Status in late November 2020 went to “Yellow” status on January 25, 2021.

- Harold Kaveolook School, Kaktovik expected to open on “Green Status” on January 19, but due to a reported positive case on that very day, the school went to “Red Status”. The school has since returned to “Green Status” on February 1, 2021.
- Alak School, Wainwright remains on “Red” COVID 19 Safety Risk Status, and as of February 1, 2021, there was 1 reported active case. The Alak COVID 19 Response Team met on Thursday, February 4, 2021. The agenda included discussions on setting up COVID parameters to determine when to move from COVID 19 “Green” to “Yellow” and from “Yellow” to “Red”; the possibility of following Utqiagvik schools’ lead, by setting a town hall meeting to gather feedback from community, and efforts to include NSBSD stakeholders in all future meetings. Wainwright instituted a ‘Hunker Down Order on December 11, 2020, and Alak School went on “Red” COVID 19 Safety Risk Status COVID 19 Safety Status at that time.
- Tikigaq School, Point Hope opened its doors on January 5th on “Yellow” COVID 19 Safety Risk Status and had maintained “Yellow” status up until February 2, 2021. As of this writing, we are awaiting further details.
- Barrow Schools continue on “Red” status throughout the 3rd Quarter. A Town Hall style meeting was hosted by Barrow Schools’ administrators to garner feedback and suggestions for the anticipated opening of Barrow Schools for the 4th Quarter.

Vaccinations are underway for NSBSD staff members who have agreed to have the vaccine. On Saturday, January 30th a “Vaccine Clinic” was held for NSBSD staff members in Barrow. Across the district, about a little less than one-third of all NSBSD employees have received their first shots- with 2nd shot doses administration staggered from mid-February to the end of the month. Recipients of the Pfizer vaccine must wait 21 days before receiving their 2nd shots, and recipients who received the Moderna vaccine must wait 28 days. There is a report of at least one village receiving the Moderna vaccine. However, it should be noted, at this time, staff members are not required to get vaccinated. NSBSD staff members can be seen as a microcosm of society; some educators and/or staff members have medical conditions that might make the vaccine dangerous to their health, some might find the vaccine suspect due to the rushed roll out; and some other educators might even view the vaccine as being part of a larger sinister conspiracy-they just do not trust it. Regardless of the reasons for those opting out of receiving the vaccine, it is a personal choice and a private matter, and it bears mentioning because we must anticipate how this will affect the NSBSD community as a whole. There are several resources dedicated to all things COVID 19 related, including vaccination fact sheets, on the NSBSD website and posted on the district’s Facebook page. In addition, at this time, vaccinated or not, it is important to follow all the previous CDC guidelines- continue to wear a mask, continue to social distance, avoid closed spaces and large gatherings.

Case counts, in the North Slope Borough community and all over the state, have waned considerably since the beginning of the school year. For the North Slope Borough, according to the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Coronavirus Response Hub- that has a link on the District website homepage, the positive case count from January 3-February 2 was 156-with 0 hospitalizations and with 0 deaths. While this is encouraging news on the surface, the threat of COVID 19 still looms because the virus has mutated. According to the Alaska DHSS, on January 26, 2021, it was “announced an Anchorage resident tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 infection in December was infected with a variant strain of the virus known as B.1.1.7, which was originally detected in September in the United Kingdom’. The variant strain is reported as being far more contagious and far more deadly. According to the Centers for Disease Control, as of February 2, 2021, there are 541 cases of the mutated UK virus, in the United States, and a total of 5 cases of

both the South African variant and the Brazilian variant. The CDC is closely monitoring these emerging variants.

On Wednesday night, February 3, 2021, Superintendent Harvey hosted a Town Hall meeting, and well over 150 community members were present at any given time. Based on the comments, the top concerns voiced by parents/guardian stakeholders were work-life/home-life balance, high Internet costs, and lack of knowledge of concrete Barrow schools' opening plans.

Work life and home life concerns were expressed as issues with assisting their students with school work, supervision of students while at work, social needs of students, student growth and progress assessments, and ensuring students with special needs are getting the services they are due. While NSBSD personnel are limited in their abilities to assist with the home lives of students, to address these concerns within their scope, NSBSD educators continue to encourage parents/guardians and students to reach out.

Concerns over the high costs of home Internet were expressed, and while the district has no control over private companies' Internet costs, the NSBSD IT Department is diligently working to provide solutions to assist parents/guardians and students with instruction using 21st century technology tools.

Town Hall participants voiced their concerns about school opening plans and the lack of knowledge of school opening plans. At the beginning of the school year, all NSBSD schools' administrators had submitted school opening plans for the various COVID 19 Safety Risk Status levels, and periodically, these plans have been updated based on the fluid information coming in about safety precautions. These plans are currently posted on the District website. At this time, the suggestions for schools' opening plans gleaned from the Town Hall meeting are being incorporated and/or considered for revision of the opening plans. During the Town Hall meeting, some participants used the opening of Anchorage elementary schools as an exemplar. However, please note, according to the Anchorage School District website and a contact of ASD, elementary school students in grades K through 2 went back to in person learning the 3rd week of January. Since that opening, 6 schools, have had reported cases and some classrooms had to revert back to distance learning. ASD students grades 3 through 6 are scheduled to return to school at a later date. As far as, assessments, the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Deputy Commissioner Karen Melin was a guest on the NSBSD KBRW Radio Hour on February 3. Deputy Commissioner Melin stated that while a federal waiver has not been issued to suspend summative assessments in Alaska like last year, it is important to note that measuring student growth is not punitive in any way, the COVID 19 pandemic will be factored into student growth results. The spring computer-based PEAKS assessment testing window is march 29 through April 30 and the paper-based assessment window is April 5- April 16.

Superintendent Harvey urged those who were unable to be heard at the Town Hall meeting or had concerns that came up after the meeting to reach by way of email to school sites' administrators, so their concerns can be acted upon.

Curriculum & Instruction - Liz Noble

Battle of the Books:

Below is a table of the 2021 District Battle of the Books school rankings. The first place teams in the four groups to the right of the table, in orange, will be advancing to the state level competitions. I will email those three coaches separately to help them complete the paperwork. All of the teams and coaches did a fantastic job this year. The obstacles in place this year were like non-other, but the students and teachers rose to the challenge. The coaches applied their creativity and ingenuity to see to it that students were able to participate and their dedication shows.

Erin states:

Thank you to all of the coaches for your dedication and hard work. I know the teams enjoyed it. I will be working to get trophies, participation medals, and certificates to your schools.

2021 NSBSD District Battle of the Books Rankings

	Kindergarten	Grade 1	Grade 2	3-4	5-6	MH	HS
First Place	Ipalook Elementary School	Meade River School	Meade River School & Ipalook Elementary School	Nuiqsut Trapper School	Eben Hopson Middle School	Eben Hopson Middle School	Barrow High School
Second Place	Meade River School	Ipalook Elementary School	Ałak School	Ipalook Elementary School	Ipalook Elementary School	Meade River School	Harold Kaveolook School & Kali School
Third Place	Harold Kaveolook School	Kali School	Harold Kaveolook School	Nunamiut School	Harold Kaveolook School & Kali School	Harold Kaveolook School	
Fourth Place		Harold Kaveolook School		Meade River School		Nuiqsut Trapper School & Kali School	
Fifth Place				Harold Kaveolook School			
Sixth Place				Kali School			

Sylvan Learning:

Re: North Slope Borough School District Tutoring

Ryan Cope states;

Before Christmas break, tutoring students began to enjoy some extra holiday cheer. Students who tutored in Barrow received a gift card to Subway. Atqasuk got their "Pizza Party in a Box." Tikigaq received their presents in January when Santa dropped off meal coupons for Whaler's Restaurant. A number of schools unfortunately have had to deal with "code red" status, but we are working to ensure every student has some recognition for the holiday and their tutoring!

Starting in January, we began identifying students for progress assessments. The progress assessments are administered to students who reach their 25th lesson. On that note - we celebrate today after reviewing the first progress assessment and our student showed amazing growth! As

we prepare the statistics on growth for the next update, here is a summary of NSBSD tutoring programs today:

Kaktovik - Finished Training then "Code Red." Returning to school and tutoring setup this week.
Anaktuvuk Pass - Two Para pros presently in training.

Point Hope - Tutors ready. Students have been identified and we are waiting for parental permission slips.

Hopson Middle School - Students have been tutoring online all year. Preparing for progress assessments. Point Lay - Tutors trained. School returned from code red this week. Preparing for progress assessments. Atkasuk "Rock Stars" - Progress assessments started last week. Initial results are strong.

Wainwright - Tutors Trained. Need to begin initial assessments.

Our online teaching ability is good enough, you can take students from anywhere in your district and have them use your online tutoring. I have many students from Barrow coming to Sylvan, independently that could possibly utilize NSBSD Sylvan support as well.

Thank you all for your support. It is an honor to watch our exceptional students learn.

Quyanaq,

Ryan Cope

Assessment:

WIDA materials have been shipped to each site and schedules for testing have been completed for sites in Yellow or Green.

DEED will host a webinar to address PEAKS testing and to provide an update on training. Sites with students in the building will administer the PEAKS assessment. PEAKS is not available via Remote.

ACT is scheduled for March 30. School counselors are gathering names of those junior and seniors who would like to participate. Last day to roster a student for ACT is February 19.

School Climate Survey(SCCS) will be available this year, via paper packet and online, if requested by sites for families, students, and staff.

Replacement Orders:

Replacement Order Forms for approved district core materials were emailed with a deadline of February 12, 2021. This period gives us a window in which to request quotes and prepare memos for the March school board meeting.

District In-Service:

Next District In-Service is scheduled for February 17, 2021. Alaska Staff Development Network will again support NSBSD with Literacy Across the Content Areas. Follow up training on Literacy from the January 18 In-Service is also occurring every last Wednesday of each month through April.

Survey Results for the January District In-Service are attached for your review.

Curriculum Committee:

Curriculum Committee met January 21, 2021. The Arts Sub-Committee presented their recommendation to the committee for input and feedback. Committee recommendation have been submitted as an Action Item for the regular board meeting, February 10, 2021.

Graduation Class of 2020:

United States Department of the Interior- Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, Tara Sweeney, sent a handwritten congratulatory note to all NSBSD class of 2020 graduates. Letters have been addressed and mailed, January 27, 2021. Thank you Ranel.

There was quite a challenge getting these congratulatory cards here but through Tina Wolgemuth's perseverance and commitment NSBSD graduates will receive their personalized congratulatory card from the United States Department of Interior. Thank you Tina!

Qargi Academy Update - Liz Noble

Projects to support credit recovery were sent to all students via Qargi staff.

For seniors, a transcript audit was completed and a letter sent to parents and students identifying credits needed to meet graduation requirements. The Letter included the list of projects available to help make up credits lost during the first semester. Projects listed are; Subsistence, Whaling, Sewing, Art, Cooking. All projects are place based, culturally relevant and interdisciplinary. Each project includes Language Arts and History/Social Studies and requires the use of Inupiaq words and or phrases.

Origin of these projects and resources is from Cultural Based Units in the Inupiaq Education Department.

Thank you to Tenna, Kim Neakok, Kathleen Fisher, Erin Hollingsworth, Ranel Gandia, and Nathan Freeman for your support, leadership and knowledge.

Student Services - Lori Roth

Special Education Update

- Special education teachers are working with assessment to provide updated accommodations for the NWEA-MAP test.
- Special education teachers continue to work with related service providers (Occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech/language) and school psychologists to provide remote support as stated in Individualized Education Programs.
- Student Services has signed, and is moving forward in collaboration with iT and Student Records, to populate the Embrace on-line IEP/504 Program.

School Counselors Update

- Collaborating with Arctic Education Foundation to provide a 2 webinars series for our seniors. Webinars include: scholarships, Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA) information, and support to register with the Arctic Education Foundation.
- 4thR training is being scheduled for all school counselors. It will be provided by the Department of Education at no cost to NSBS. Training will be open to principal-identified staff.
- School counselors will be attending the virtual Alaska School Counselors Association state-ode training on February 3-6. Grant funds were used to pay the registration and annual membership fees.

Superintendent Harvey requested an update on the implementation of site-based drug & alcohol prevention programs. The following information was provided by school counselors and/or building principals.

Alak School-David Bauer, school counselor

- Tobacco use prevention materials, harms of vaping, Red Ribbon week, Second Step program for social/emotional wellness (preK thru 8), Vertava Health for preventing the use of drugs.

Barrow High School-Jocelyn Niedziela, school counselor

- Health class includes a unit on drug & alcohol prevention (including vaping), 4thR to promote Healthy Relationship and drug & alcohol awareness, coordinating with DeShaun Whiskey, Prevention Program.

Fred Ipalook Elementary School-Carlene Hockema, school counselor

- KidsHealth in the Classroom, Kelso's Choices promotes good choices and well-being, Restorative Circles in zoom classrooms.

Harold Kaveolook School-Lorrie Scoles, school counselor

- High school Leadership class, 4th R curriculum supplemented by videos, articles, and projects, Restorative Circles.

Hopson Middle School-Sable Marandi, school counselor

- School-wide-Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports, 4th R addresses substance abuse, virtual Circles, Red-Ribbon Week.

Kali School, Sharon Lemmert, remote school counselor

- Restorative Circles and morning meetings. Students are provided materials supporting drug & alcohol awareness.

Kiita Learning Community-Jennifer Brower, school counselor

- Health class promotes drug & alcohol awareness, independent study courses, Google meets include the NSB prevention program, Kiita Facebook page, distribution of flyers & brochures.

Meade River School-Cheryl Yocum, remote school counselor

- School-wide-Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports, 4thR includes lessons on drug & alcohol prevention and healthy relationships, Restorative Circles, coordination with DeShaun Whiskey, Prevention Program.

Nuiqsut Trapper School-Deb Alverson, remote school counselor

- Coordination with local police for drug & alcohol assemblies, coordination with DeShaun Whiskey, Prevention Program, book studies with staff, trauma informed practices, Restorative Circles, 4thR as part of the health curriculum.

Nunamiut School-Marissa Garcia De Leon, school counselor

- 4th R program as part of the health curriculum, staff trained in Mental Health First Aid, Collaboration with the Tanana Chiefs Corporation.

Tikigaaq School

- Warning Signs of Drug & Alcohol Abuse curriculum, coordinate with Maniilaq, training staff on the warning signs of drug & alcohol, Keepin' It REAL by D.A.R.E curriculum.

State & Federal Grants

Alternative Schools Grant

- Kiita hosts weekly topical school-wide meetings focused on community organizations and available resources. Discussed career options for various topics such as food service, custodial safety, and professionalism in the office. As per objectives, 4 students received certificates from Iḷisaġvik college. Funds will be used to purchase items for miniature sled-building and hydroponic gardens.

CARES Act

- All required reports submitted on time.

Indian Education Grant (Title VI)

- After school tutoring
- Slop-wide library materials ordered (e-books)
- EASI Part 1 of the 2021-2022 Application is open February 8 through March 11, 2021.

Migrant Education

- First round of stipends will be provided to active recruiters.
- Recruiting for FY23 will continue throughout the year and over the summer.
- Quality Control Report and Course History Report completed and submitted on time.
- Migrant education Sub Library Grant. NSBSD receives an annual sub-award. FY21 amount is \$1,200.00 and will be used to support literacy for migrant eligible students. C&I will purchase, and distribute, books to migrant eligible students as per the application.

Higher Pathways: Native Education Grants

The goal of the Native Pathways to College program is to increase the number of American Indian and Alaska Native students enrolled in college and assist them through their transition.

- Barrow High School, Kali School, Kiita Learning Community, Meade River School, Nuiqsut Trapper School, Nunamiut School

School Improvement Grants

- All the school improvement sites have been busy ordering materials as approved by EED.
- Kiita Learning Community will be hosting a zoom training from 8:00 to 4:00 on Feb 8, 11, & 12 for up to 100 NSBSD staff. The training will be on *Building Trauma Informed Educators for a Resilient School Community*. Information has been sent to all building principals to share with their staff.

Title Grants:

- Sylvan Tutor out of contracts have been sent to trained paraprofessionals.

SAPP Grant

- All sites have been provided \$300 to order materials for students and community members to promote resiliency from, <https://www.dontgiveupsigns.com>.
- Purchase ½ page ad in the Arctic Sounder providing readers with the state-wide and local crisis number.

- Completed a budget revision to provide funds for local schools to participate and support students in the “Message of Hope” virtual activity. Information has been posted on the NSBSD website. “Hope” committee consists of district-wide home-school facilitators, school counselors, and principals from participating sites. Final submission of the “Message of Hope” activity is February 19.

Inupiaq Education - Ronald Brower Sr.

The continued lock down of the schools in Barrow due to COVID 19 spread have affected many including this Department.

The Inupiat Heritage Center (IHC) delivery of donations of ASRC T-shirts to students was deferred into the future when better conditions permit and they can to organize by classroom and have teachers give out the T-shirts to students.

The IED employees have taken on other capacities that ensure the Department continues to deliver administrative support services to all sites by working together to maintain the responsibilities of this Department. In doing so we help to implement the Board's goal 3:

Staff success: strengthen the recruitment and retention of highly effective staff and inspire more Inupiaq teachers and administrators.

IED staff participated at the district Cultural in-service and introduced the Adopt a Teacher project so teachers become aware of the concept. Feedback from teachers will assist the Alaska humanities Forum and C-3 partners further develop the plan with further discussion with the North Slope Borough Teachers Association. The staff of Alaska Humanities Forum will make a presentation to the Board of Education on this topic. This will support Goal 2: Community Engagement: *Foster collective responsibility, commitment and trust between the school and community.*

The VIVA program has become difficult to maintain as its components become outdated. It is still used by many teachers as an interactive supplement to revitalize the Inupiaq Language in the district schools. The Department is requesting that the original programmer Snelling Alaska be contracted to provide fixes and support for the VIVA program. A request for a contract over \$10,000.00 has been submitted for the Board of Education's consideration. This request meets the goals of Strategic Plan 1.4 Inupiaq Language and Culture: *Implement Language and culture programs to revitalize the Inupiaq Language.* And 4.0 Financial and Operational Stewardship *Effectively employ our operational and financial resources to support our strategic goals and long-term stability of the district.*

IED staff have met in preparation for the budget hearings conducted by the Board of Education and will present the Department's budget recommendations at the continuation of the Budget Hearings. IED staff apply 4.2 FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP/MANAGEMENT: *Ensure financial management based on what is best for our students.*

IED staff continue to provide guidance to the Qargi Academy teachers on Inupiaq Language programs and support other sites with their Inupiaq educational requests from the Department.

Human Resources - Naomi Digitaki

Employee Assistance Program (EAP) launched for educators

Working with M&O Program Assistant Tomi Phillip to revive the district's drug testing program

Resignations received -4 certificated employees

Retirement - James Ladd & Todd Washburn & Monica Hanchett

Long-term sub for Kali School (1)

Regular teachers for Nuiqsut Trapper School (1) & Alak School (1)

Received signed contracts for some tenured teachers and administrators

Certifications (initial application & renewal, waivers) continue to be a focus

Employee concerns have escalated in the past 2 weeks, most of which deal with perceived mistreatment, absence of professionalism, and inequality in the workplace.

Information Technology - Everett Haines

Upgrading vSphere/vCenter virtualization infrastructure to 7.0 series.

Upgraded Nimble SAN software to be compatible with the new vCenter server version.

Hardware failure of one Nimble SAN controller in Point Lay, unit running without redundancy.

Disabled direct village routes providing improved access to Utqiagvik-based services.

Maintenance & Operations - Corey Cahoon

1. AKP Lift Station in Room 125 - Special Ed Classroom. The pumps would not discharge and appear to be plugged up. A plumber from Utqiagvik was assigned to help pull pumps and clean them out. The plumber will also help the Plant Manager with teacher houses that have frozen pipes
2. Wainwright - Generator runs but will not transfer power automatically or manually. Electrical contractor is working with the Plant Manager to see if the problem can be fixed. If this approach does not work, the contractor will provide an estimate for work needed so we can move forward and fix this.
3. Six vehicles need to be fixed, materials, shipping & labor cost over \$20K
4. Status of Bleachers in Kali School - Last Replaced/Additional issues : Update from NSD will be provided at the BOE meeting
5. Food Ordering and Food Storage/Shelf Life- Excess food at IPK will be stored in conexes; awaiting funds to fix and/or replace freezers. Working with Liz/Jill to maximize the use of PrimeroEdge to reduce food waste and improve meal delivery times/accuracy.
6. Status of NSB Request on M&O Needs - awaiting word from NSB for a meeting to discuss M& O needs and determine next steps.