

Administrator Report

Superintendent Office - Rich Carlson

The last several weeks have been extremely busy and it does appear that it is not going to slow down anytime soon.

Incoming Chief School Administrator David Vadiveloo and I continue to work together to ensure a smooth transition. David already has a working knowledge of the North Slope and I am very confident that the transition will go well and that he will be an excellent superintendent and lead the district for many years to come.

We recently received a letter from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS) regarding our negotiations with the North Slope Educators' Association. As you are aware the negotiation between the NSEAA and the North Slope Borough School District hit an impasse earlier this winter. The NSEAA contacted Federal Mediation to help resolve the dispute and hopefully can assist in reaching a settlement. Mediation is a voluntary process in which labor and management agree to use a neutral third party to help resolve workplace disputes. This service is free of charge. In the next few weeks a representative from the FMCS will be contacting both parties to discuss their services and possibly arrange a meeting. I will keep you informed.

On January 18th Assistant Superintendent MJ Geiser and I met with President Justina Wilhelm and Dean of Academic Affairs/Professor of Management Dr. Kate O'Brian to discuss our continued cooperation and collaboration with Iisagvik College. The two organizations meet on a regular basis to investigate, plan and implement programs that assist our students make the transition to further education or the workplace. Further, it is hoped that sometime in the near future the Iisagvik College Board of Trustees and the North Slope Board of Education can meet in a joint meeting to discuss issues of common concern. President Wilhelm and I will work together to identify possible dates for this meeting.

On January 24th President Nancy Rock and members of the Legislative Committee consisting of Madeline Hickman, Robyn Burke, and Qaiyaan Harcharek (alternate) along with Chelsie Overby, Fadil Limani, and Rich Carlson met with the Legislative Committee of the Northwest Arctic Borough School District to review legislation and prepare for the Association of Alaska School Board Legislative Fly-In. The legislative fly-in will take place in Juneau from February 12th to the 14th. We plan on meeting for an informal lunch on Saturday, February 12, 2022.

I am extremely happy to announce that Tennessee Judkins has been selected as our next Director of Inupiaq Education. Tenna has a long history of working on behalf of the Inupiaq Education and for the students of the North Slope. We are extremely happy to welcome Tenna as our new Inupiaq Director.

The most current update of the risk /COVID status of our schools is as follows:

SCHOOL	CURRENT STATUS	NOTES
Alak	RED	Red Status, Distance Learning until Jan 28
Barrow High	GREEN	Green, Face to Face Learning
Hopson Middle	GREEN	Green, Face to Face Learning

Ipalook Elementary	GREEN	Green, Face to Face Learning
Kali	RED	Red Status January 21 to ?
Kaveolook	YELLOW	
Kiita	GREEN	Green, Face to Face Learning
Meade River	GREEN	Resume Green, Nov 29, 2021
Nunamiut	GREEN	Green , Face to Face Learning
Tikigaaq	GREEN	Green, Face to Face Learning
Trapper	RED	RED through Monday Jan 25th

Assistant Superintendent - MJ Geiser

I am continuing to work with Mr. Lamani and Dr. O’Neil on the MOA with Ilisagvik for support doing the CTE intensives. The work will continue with Dr. O’Neil’s replacement.

The 1A and Utqiagvik job fair that Mr. Hawley will be providing an update on during his report has been picked up by a staff member in Mayor Brower’s office. She is working with Mr. Hawley on recruiting additional presenters. It’s exciting to be working with the Mayor’s office again in support of our students.

I provided clarifying information to the principals regarding the teacher evaluations. Training was provided to principals during the district inservice on Monday the 17th. They were provided with a powerpoint so that consistent information is provided to all teachers in the district.

Principal evaluations are currently wrapping up. By the board meeting principal evaluations will be finalized. The principal hired in December will be evaluated in March.

A committee to review the Crisis Management Plan will be forming in late February. I will be working to ensure that the committee includes representation from the villages as the emergency responses are vastly different than in Utqiagvik.

I have started informal conversations with the C&I, IED, and Student Services departments regarding new hire inservice needs. The past few years have demonstrated that as we work to improve the standards of our district, the importance of building relationships between district staff and the new hire principals and teachers is evident. Being face-to-face is a vital aspect of the on-boarding process.

Human Resources - David Camp

DOT Drug and Alcohol Testing Program - Kenzie Knowles has completed her training and is now a certified DER (Designated Employer Representative) in the program. The HR department will continue training all HR staff to become certified in order to meet the demand of the DOT for bus drivers, etc. in all 8 villages. This includes all pre-employment, random and for-cause testing.

ACA and 1095C’s - HR has been working diligently to process all 1095c’s since 2018. This project is now complete and we are in compliance. This process has saved the District an astronomical amount in potential IRS fines under the Affordable Care Act.

Benefit payments -It was discovered that some district payments going back to 2020 for VOYA were incorrect. The billing amounts have been corrected and paid. I am grateful that HR and the Business Office worked together on this endeavor. Billing will now flow through HR to the business office. This enables HR to verify accurate employee counts and usage numbers, then send the invoices to the BO for verification and payment.

Maintenance & Operations - Craig Jones

AIN- Pool is still shut down and we are scheduling a site visit to all sites with pools for inspection. The pool inspection visits were scheduled for January and were rescheduled for February due to issues with weather and flights.

AKP- We are having issues with water pressure at the school. There is an underground leak and the contractors are looking for it to make the repairs. We continue to monitor the progress.

ATQ- The 3rd substantial completion site visit is scheduled for the 13-14th of January has been rescheduled for the first week in Feb.

KAK- We continue to work to finalize a zero-dollar MOA with Polar services with regards to the use of a portions of the school property where their mobile lab sits and continue with the Long-Term Ecological Studies.

NUI- Staff housing heating issues have been resolved.

PHO- We are posting for a new plant manager.

PIZ- There has been some activity out in PIZ that has directly affected the staff and one of our staff housing. M&O cleaned up house 425. The teacher that lived in 425 did not want to continue to live there. The borough allowed the teacher to move into the borough itinerant quarters.

UTQ- RLC substantial completion has been moved out to the end of February.

BHS- Athletics was able to successfully hold a basketball tournament. Housing, Transportation and Food Services were able to contribute to the overall success.

There was a fire at the 4-plex on the early morning of the 25th. Alarms throughout the CO complex went off at 1:25 am and the fire department was on site just after 1:30. The source of the fire was found to be a circulating fan that had failed. The fire was in the utility corridor and had smothered itself out due to lack of oxygen. The damage was minimal but there was a significant level of smoke in the hallway of the 4-plex. I sent out an email to the admin at about 3 am with the info. The next day the crew made repairs and reinsulated the utilidor. The day after that the flooring was completely redone. All smoke detectors/CO2 Detectors and fire extinguishers in the 4-plex were inspected and batteries were replaced where necessary.

Curriculum & Instruction - Liz Noble

School Climate Connectedness Survey (SCCS):

The window for the student survey is January 17 – February 18, 2022.

Panorama Ed has again extended the window for the parent survey, which will be open for the entire statewide survey window of **January 17- March 25, 2022.**

Families can take the survey anytime in this window.

Site Administrators have received an email from Panorama Ed with their site's individualized links to the family survey. Family survey links will be posted/available on each school's website.

A sample of the parent permission form and a one-pager providing more information about the School Climate and Connectedness Survey, which can be sent home with the parent letter, was disseminated to site administrators.

Please note, the survey requires parent permission, and State regulations require we provide parents the opportunity to opt-out if they do not wish for their child to participate.

January 17 District In-Service was completed and included 145 participants. A couple of our presenters canceled at the last minute, due to Covid but as always, our staff is flexible and everyone adapted. As per the in-Service survey, the majority of the staff had a positive experience during the Visual Arts presentation, via the Alaska Arts Consortium, and the New Visions Grant presentation via the Art committee. In addition, Marisol Thayer from Corwin did a wonderful job with Text Dependent Analysis strategies for 6-12 instructors. ChrissAnn Justice facilitated a workshop for ILT's with positive feedback as well. Survey Responses, See attachment for results. We are currently preparing for the final district in-service for SY21-22 to be held Monday, February 21st.

Erin Hollingsworth, District Librarian, will provide a Battle of the Books update during the March board meeting but, we do have the list of schools that will participate in the State Battle of the Books in February.

Congratulations to the following school teams advancing to the State Battle of the Books.

- 3rd/4th IPK
- 5th/6th IPK
- MS KAK
- HS BHS

NWEA-MAP assessment is underway. Our window for the winter benchmark is January 18-February 11. Student outcomes will be presented at the March board meeting.

World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA ACCESS for ELL's) screener is a comprehensive approach to supporting, teaching and assessing multilingual learners. The testing window runs February 1-March 31. Approximately 200 students, district wide, will participate in this screening to support English language development. ACCESS is an English language proficiency assessment administered to Kindergarten through 12th grade students who have been identified as English Language learners (ELL). This assessment is administered annually to monitor students' progress in acquiring academic English.

The SchoolCafé website, an online free/reduced application, has been updated to release 8.1 which includes a few fixes and performance enhancements in addition to a number of new features. When the user logs into their account for the first time after the update, the system will display update notes.

Kathleen disseminated a survey requesting volunteers for the K-5 Language Arts Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee will include 10 volunteers for research, pilot information, and recommendations.

On a final note the Curriculum Committee met January 27th. The Health Sub-Committee presented their pilot materials, pilot sites, and plans for community input and final recommendations.

Career Technical Education - Ronnie Hawley

The CTE department is happy to say that the Borough MOA is complete and funding has been approved. There will be a Career Fair at BHS on February 4th during the 1A Basketball Tournament. Students from All village locations except PHO will be present. The staff at PHO have been preparing to have a career fair in the near future, CTE is a part of the planning team. The School Intensive will kick off with AKP, we will have two classes Construction trades, Core, and Small Engines. Arrangements will be made to visit schools for Intensives as they are cleared from RED status. Shop Equipment was sent to the Kaktovik school, items included: two band saws, one planer, one Jointer, one miter saw, one dust collection unit, one all in one welder, one mini lathe, one plasma cutter, and one scroll saw. All items are 110 power and can be moved easily as needed. KITA was issued a Dremel laser cutter/engraver to bring the fab lab program to the school. I will work with Kern and Alice on training for the equipment and what could be upgraded or needed for future CTE offing's. The CTE classes being taught around the Slope are going well.

Special Education - Lori Roth

Special Education

The Student Services Office has been working to coordinate district-wide on-site services. The physical therapist, occupational therapist, and vision specialist travel will occur in February/March based on services identified in Individual Education Programs.

Section 504 Plans

Nothing new to report as of this date.

Counselors

Nothing new to report.

State & Federal Grants - Lori Roth

Alternative Schools Grant: Nothing new to report.

COVID Relief:

- o CARES ACT (GEER I): Application in process.
- o CARES Act (ESSER I): Application in process.
- o CRRSA Act (ESSER II): Application in process.
- o American Recovery Plan (ESSER III): Application in process.

Higher Pathways Grants: Nothing new to report.

Indian Education Grant: Nothing new to report

Johnson O'Malley Grant: Nothing new to report

New Visions Grant: Nothing new to report

Perkins Grant: Nothing new to report.

Quality Schools Grant: Nothing new to report.

School Improvement Grants: Kiita Learning Community submitted a budget revision for the FY22 application to spend all funds. Nuiqsut Trapper School will also be submitting a budget revision.

Sisamat Grant: The final budget amount has been determined. NSBSD completed the FY22 budget.

Special Education (VI-B): Nothing new to report.

Substance Abuse & Misuse Grant: NSBSD was awarded funds for Hopson Middle School. A Grant Acceptance memo will be submitted to the Board for consideration in March.

Suicide Grant: A budget revision was completed to fund district-wide Second Step social/emotional program.

Title Grants: Nothing new to report

- Title I-A (low socio-economic schools): Nothing new to report
- Title I-C (Migrant Education): Nothing new to report
- Title I-C (Literacy Grant for Migrant Eligible students): C&I has been working with Student Services to create coupons. Parents of migrant eligible students will receive a letter outlining the dollar amount and directions to make purchases at the Scholastic on-line book fair.
- Title II-A (professional development & training): Nothing new to report
- Title III-A (English Language Learners): Nothing new to report

Title IV-A (At-risk students): Nothing new to report