

Administrative Report

Superintendent David Vadiveloo

Utuqqanaavut kisuiġukkitka – sivulliit utuqqanaallu, paŋmami utuqqanaagiravullu, utuqqanaaġugumaaqtuallu. Qu yanaaġitka paŋmamuraglaan aullatimmagit savaktivut iliiñiaqtuagiravullu. Nalunaigunmigiga sulii iñuuniaguuutilaaqput savaguutilaaqpullu nunaniñiñi lñupiat. Igliqtitchirauvluta minuaqtuġvinñik kamasuuttaġigikput ikayuiyumiñiaqapta tamatkunani nunani.

Members of the Board and community, as our proud students, staff and families celebrated another Inuit Day and birthday of Eben Hopson Sr, we step into Native Heritage Month recognizing how fortunate we are as a school District to be guided by the skills, knowledge and wisdom of the Elders that have provided the strength that we benefit from today. We acknowledge those Elders past, present and emerging for entrusting us as partners in the education and growth of their children. School attendance is on the rise and our students are participating in a range of exciting new initiatives and culturally grounded activities and 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.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCILS: The administration have been attending SAC meetings this past month to answer questions about the Calendar process and the proposed dates for next year. Discussions have ranged across attendance, academic achievement and the competing needs for subsistence activities, family holidays and State basketball to be accommodated. The administration believes this is a significant priority for community wide discussion as most participants agree that the current calendar structure (which has been followed for decades) is not maximizing student contact or attendance. We look forward to this discussion and thank our SACs for their consideration and dialogue.

CITIES AND NSB: Yesterday and today our school in Tikiġaq has served as an emergency shelter for the community. This is the same shelter process we offered last year, providing safe dwelling and food for community members affected by weather. The emergency management is operated by the NSB and the District coordinates to reschedule classes and other school programs to accommodate emergency needs.

In further coordination with the NSB the District has been engaged with the North Slope Borough's Employee Training Program (ETP) to increase local employment and training. This partnership benefits both organizations as it is a cost-effective way for the District to increase temporary employee numbers and the Borough compensates for the salary. In return, the District provides the people with training and skill sets to assist them in their workforce journey.

Finally, we received approval from Mayor Patkotak to move forward with the conversion of the roller rink into District warehousing. While this has long been a favorite venue for children's parties and other events, recent issues with legal actions relating to the public use of the facility, combined with the failing infrastructure, have led the City, Borough and District to agree to put the space to a different use.

KBRW & SENIOR CENTER: Uqautilunja lñupiatun Immersion students took a field trip to KBRW to sing and read in lñupiaq to help raise funds for the KBRW Drive-to-Thrive and a group of Hopson Middle School students visited the senior center, performing songs and introducing themselves in lñupiaq. They

performed for Elders in both the assisted living and lobby areas. The Elders at the Senior Center and families, past teachers and staff listening to KBRW expressed deep appreciation for the visits.

ATTENDANCE RATES & TRUANCY: Last week we had our highest attendance for the year district wide averaging nearly 80% across all schools! This is a great achievement by the community, parents and staff at all schools. Nuiqsut, Ulguniq and Kaktovik all registered a 5% increase in student attendance during the 'State count' month of October and Anaktuvuk Pass and Tikiġaq both registered the biggest annual increase with their attendances rising by 10% compared to the same time last year. As a recognition of their efforts all these schools will receive an attendance growth gift that will benefit all students.

In response to Board member and SAC queries about truancy we have continued to work on a sustainable approach with the District Attorney. We're analyzing the 10-day absence data and it's proposed that at the 10 day absence mark, or after consecutive absences of more than 5-7 days, the student and parent/guardian will be required to meet with the Superintendent and the DA to discuss what barriers are affecting attendance and look for solutions. Then if absences continue, the DA will look at moving to court based action.

In addition to this focus, the administration intends to speak to the Board at the Winter retreat about possible amendments to the current absence classifications, excused absence policy, truancy policy and other issues which impact attendance data and student learning at every school.

Domain: Culturally Responsive Instruction

Goal: All students perform at or above grade level

CURRICULUM & RRR: The Curriculum Committee met in early November and the science sub-committee is presently reviewing materials, and discussing our High School course rotation to make sure that we are best serving our students in terms of the sequencing of their science skills in the secondary grades.

The Repair, Rebuild, Revitalize curriculum project is well underway updating and re-aligning our North Slope Science course. Once complete, we will have i) new student-facing course materials, ii) new teacher facing course materials, and iii) an asynchronous course so that students can complete a high quality North Slope Science course, when they need it, regardless of whether it is being taught in person at their site.

KIVGIQ: Instructional departments have also been meeting to develop a plan for Kivgiq in February to ensure we have curriculum and instructional plans offering options for project-based intensives to all students. This will include cross-curriculum options for village students attending in person and for those still at their village schools.

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

CTE & VOC ED: Last week the Qatqiññaġvik Learning Center facilitated a heavy equipment intensive for Utqiāġvik students and this week 30 students from villages are engaged in classes in welding, arctic survival/first aid and video production. Welding and arctic survival are dual credit classes offered in partnership with Iḷisaġvik College. Rounding out 2024 there will be a cosmetology class for Utqiāġvik students; this will be repeated in the spring during our travel based intensive sessions. For Board members and the public wishing to learn more about our on-the-job training program there is a comprehensive write up in the Board report from Principal Jim Dube.

COLLEGE PATHWAYS: Iḷisaġvik College have been hosting information sessions for parents and students about Dual Credit courses. Listings have been provided to the counselors to foster a stronger bond with

the college and provide more advanced offerings for students. In addition, the administration is excited to be in talks with ANSEP (Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program) about offerings for our students including a 5th to 6th grade in-region programs, middle school programs, high school summer school and possible options for an acceleration academy.

Goal: Graduate bilingual students

IÑUPIAQ LANGUAGE AND CURRICULUM RESOURCES: More Iñupiaq language materials for Iñupiaq reading, writing, acquisition, and math literacy are being created for use in the immersion classroom, including the updating of old resources and the translation of books in our libraries for District wide use. In alignment with the Iñupiaq Language Scope and Sequence our Iļisaurri have collaborated with IED to create a chart they can use to track students' mastery of Iñupiaq language components within each level of the Scope & Sequence and in turn use this for their grading and report cards.

The new IVALU App has been uploaded to all student iPads and the Board had an opportunity to use that app earlier today in the work session.

Domain: Student Social & Emotional Wellbeing

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

BULLYING PREVENTION: This month our partnerships with Slope based stakeholders saw the successful rollout of a bullying prevention guest speaker travelling to all village schools. To ensure this initiative continues year-round the Student Services Department is hoping to work next with Joy Huntington, who travel to each village to work with students to teach coping skills, journaling and provide bullying prevention. The tour would begin in January 2025.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL SERVICES: The Student Services Department has continued to support students and families over the last month, providing referrals to services and clinical support. This month, they worked closely with the North Slope Borough Health Department to finalize the social-emotional room at Hopson Middle School, which will be used to facilitate groups, meet with students, and provide a place to learn healthy skills.

CULTURALLY SAFE SCHOOLS: Iñuit Day celebrations and events were carried out across the District this year. Students were involved in multiple activities that recognized the significance of the day and the significance of Eben Hopson Sr. Following on from that, Native American Heritage Month has been highlighted throughout the month of November with supporting materials and information shared with teachers.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

All 7 villages have been playing mix-6 volleyball since early October and there is one big weekend left, with all the schools heading to Kali for the regional tournament this weekend. The link for the stream will be posted on the North Slope Activities - NSBSD Facebook page.

Meanwhile BHS Volleyball took the Western Conference Regional Tournament crown before falling short at the AASA State Championship. Huge congratulations to Aiga Unutoa who was named to the All-State Tournament Team. And in wrestling the Bob Harcharek tournament was held for the first time without Mr Harcharek present, but in his late father's honor, son Nagruk attended to officiate the tournament. Regionals and State will be held in December.

Staff Support & Professional Development

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

RECRUITING: We're very pleased to announce we've filled the position of Principal at Anaktuvak Pass. Mr Bob Ermold is an experienced building administrator and comes highly recommended from his previous Districts. Bob will commence in the next few weeks and has signed for the balance of the school year. Hopson Middle School's special education positions are also now fully staffed, and we're close to onboarding additional SPED staff at Nuiqsut. The Itinerant SERRC teacher at Anaktuvuk Pass is making a difference and Kali school have interviewed a candidate for their open counselor position.

This month's Board meeting also sees a request to offer a stipend to staff in our District who wish to enrol in a teacher certification program with Ilisaġvik and UAF. This stipend will match the stipend offered by our other Ilisaurriġuqta program partner Arctic Slope Community Foundation.

RETENTION: This month we are also asking the Board to support a retention signing incentive for all staff who are returning next school year. This incentive will be offered to fulltime classified and certified staff who sign before a certain date (if on contract) or who return for the first day of school next year and stay for the year.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: The Board heard earlier today about the Crisis Prevention Intervention training that several staff have now completed. This training will better equip us to bring quality professional development from within our ranks and develop the capacity of our own staff. In addition October in-services focused on CHAMPS which is an acronym that stands for Conversation, Help, Activity, Movement, Participation, and Success. CHAMPS is a classroom management strategy that helps teachers create a productive and positive learning environment. In-services also focused on Culturally Responsive Instruction, with staff receiving both instruction and workshop time to apply new learning to their current classroom practice.

And the Vector Learning Management platform has been reactivated to support compliance training, including personal boundaries, anti-harassment, and sexual harassment modules, among others. The LMS will also assist with new hire onboarding support and digital paperwork management.

LEADERSHIP: Following the last Board meeting the administration spent 2 invaluable days with all Principals, identifying areas of strength and areas for growth in our rollout of the Board Strategic Plan. The weekend proved to be an extremely successful and productive retreat, reviewing the strategic plan, site and department communications, and collaborative structures to strengthen leadership cohesion across the Slope. We look forward to the principals having a chance to spend time with Board members at the next retreat which will coincide with Kivgiq.

Financial & Operational Stewardship

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

BUILDING SAFETY AND INFRASTRUCTURE: We're pleased to announce that Vape sensor installation was completed districtwide on 11/16/2024. In addition, fire alarm and system upgrades & standardization have been completed. The new bleachers have been installed at Alak school and Hopson Middle School and the Tikigaq kitchen remodel which has been stalled for many years appear to be on track for a summer renovation.

CASHLESS POINT OF SALE: The cashless Clover credit card payment terminals are now available for use at all school sites. These have been successfully used already and sites are reporting great acceptance by the community great relief to have less cash in their buildings.

FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND REPORTING: We're currently examining the FY25 budgeted expenditures and encumbrances as part of the mid-year budget revision process. This analysis will help identify

necessary adjustments to align with actual financial performance and identified needs. In early December we will review preliminary budget estimates for FY26 with the intent of submitting them to the Board before the end of December, allowing timely consideration and approval.

IT UPGRADES: The core server upgrade project is underway. These servers are essential for district-wide services, including Tyler, Active Directory Authentication, Cisco VoIP, and Single Sign-On (SSO) authentications. With the existing servers no longer meeting industry standards, this upgrade ensures operational reliability and places us to modernize critical systems. The new servers have been delivered and are currently being prepared for deployment and the project is on track to be completed before the end of this month.

In closing

It's been a terrific start to the school year so far. Attendance is on the rise and students are reporting exciting levels of engagement with new program initiatives and new leadership energy in many of our buildings. To all those who collaborate with us to bring a better and brighter educational experience to all our students, every day – Quyanaqpak! 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 send our strength and prayers to the communities experiencing difficult weather. We're always stronger together and as a District we're proud to work on the lands for this community, walking beside you and your children every day to help make the future better for all.

End report DSV