

Chief School Administrator - David Vadiveloo

Utuqqanaavut kisuiḡukkitka – sivulliit utuqqanaallu, paḡmami utuqqanaagiravullu, utuqqanaaḡuḡumaaqtuallu. Quyanaaḡitka paḡmamuraglaan aullatimmagit savaktivut ilīññaqtuagiravullu. Nalunaḡuḡmigiga sulī iñuuniḡuutilaaqput savaguutilaaqpullu nunanīññi lñupiat. Igliqtitchirauvluta minuaqtuḡvinñik kamasuuttaḡigikput ikayuiyumiññaqapta tamatkunani nunani.

Members of the Board and members of the North Slope community, Paḡlagivsi – Welcome to the new school year!

It's been a real pleasure for me to see our students and their families out over summer, on the tundra playing, heading out tuttliaq, out on the water, heading out to the ice for ugruk and aivik. As a District we're reminded of the powerful legacy and gift that Elders from the past and our Elders today continue to pass on to their families. As a District we begin this school year once again stating how honored we are to work and live on the sovereign lands of the lñupiaq people. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging. We thank the community for entrusting us as partners in the education and growth of their children.

We want to take a moment also as a District to send our condolences to the families and friends of those who left us during the summer. Once again, there were too many losses over summer; elders, adults and youth and our thoughts, prayers and strength are with those families.

Across this summer the District administration have worked tirelessly to get our curriculum and buildings ready for the new school year. 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 Strategic goals and objectives.

Strategic goal 1: Student success

Pedagogy Domains: Culturally Responsive Instruction, Family & Community Collaboration

While most students were on summer break, a handful took advantage of the offerings from Alaska Execl over summer. In June, 5 students participated in EXCEL Capstone/Internship program, and three returning students participated in the Summer XL Camp & Drivers School. Once again the Qatqiññaḡvik dorm rooms proved a great place for students to overnight on the way back to villages. The new program for Qatqiññaḡvik is taking shape with courses already planned for NCCER CORE, Hydroponics, Culinary, Nutrition, and Small Business. Qatqiññaḡvik program is also working with the lñupiaq Education Department to plan language/culture intensives for middle school and high school students.

As part of a District-wide renewed focus on literacy skills for all students our C&I department spent the summer assessing and sending to sites the new CKLA K-5 pilot reading materials. These materials are aligned with the State focus on Science of Reading and have a much stronger target on foundational skills such as phonics and phonemic awareness. They also have a stronger writing component. During the recent District wide in-service all K-5 teachers were introduced to the new materials, pacing guides and content.

The lñupiaq Education Department continued its work restoring Culture Based Units to our curriculum and along with C&I have identified 3-4 compulsory CBU's per grade level to ensure every student is getting access to these culturally responsive, foundational educational units. IED also continued preparation for the first lñupiaq language immersion program to be launched in the

District for over 20 years and focused further energies on upgrading and improving the VIVA online learning program for our students.

As we work to create safer schools and to support our students, we would like to thank the staff from IBH and ASNA for meeting with our new school counselors/social workers during New Hire In-service. Both agencies shared the services they provide and how we can collaborate and we look forward to seeing these ongoing partnerships benefit our students.

At this meeting, the Board will conduct the second reading of multiple BPs and AR's that offer support to students through strengthened policies dealing with bullying, harassment and violence. We thank the Board for supporting the administration in this direction and look forward to implementing the policies with the follow through that our students deserve.

Strategic goal 2: Community engagement

As we launch the new pedagogy, all teachers and Principals have been introduced to the domains of the plan. As the Board heard during the summer retreat, the domains are integrated and multifaceted but the foundational domain for everything we do at our District is Community and Family Collaboration.

During the recent in-service, all site Principals were engaged in rich discussions about ways for schools to extend into the community and bring the community back into our schools. Community open-houses, locker nights, school on the tundra, community potlucks, dedicated time for outreach to parents – these are all part of the District focus on strengthening our connections and partnerships with community.

Every site will begin Community School Expectation Agreements (CSEA's) discussion this quarter. SAC's, families and students will be asked to participate in this process so our Parent Student handbook and Board Policies are supported by local community building expectations that are collaboratively developed and owned.

With recent losses of young people in Utqiagvik, our school counselors/social workers will collaborate with ASNA to support students who may be struggling. The ASNA prevention program staff will be available at Barrow High School, Hopson Middle School, and as needed for Ipalook Elementary and Kiita Learning Community for up to 4 days when school begins.

Through the support of the Mayor's Employee Training Program, Qatqiñniagvik have gained a dedicated young person to train in the position of maintenance - custodial. We are thankful to the Mayor's office for providing this program to our community.

We have also had some other wonderful partnership and community engagement with the NSB over summer. In Nuiqsut the M&O department worked alongside NSB to install a much-needed additional wheel chair ramp. Using re-purposed equipment and with the NSBSD crew working together with NSB crew and equipment the ramp was installed according to code, in about two weeks and prior to school starting, and saved an estimated \$100,000.

Also in Nuiqsut we have been working to finalize an agreement with the Native Village to have a new boiler system installed. We are extremely grateful to NVN for reaching out to the District to offer to pay for the boiler system. The District has already ordered the boiler system (to minimize the impact of very long wait times) and we are finalizing the agreement with NVN and NSB.

Our partnership with Ilisaġvik and ICAS continues to strengthen with the signing of an MOA to support ASCF to apply for funds to support home grown educators. Collaboration with Ilisaġvik to

support our Ilisaurriqut program continues and we look forward to seeing community members who've nominated for that program working with Ilisaġvik soon on their pathways.

Strategic goal 3: Staff success

Principal and New Teacher in-service were held July 24 through August 4. The HR team organized for over 100 staff to attend, including 24 H1B staff who arrived a week early and they participated in additional voluntary on-boarding sessions offered by various departments.

During the inservice every department in the district was on-show and it was a pleasure to see the focused dedication of all teams who had the singular ambition of onboarding and supporting our new staff in the best way possible. The evaluation from the new hire staff was overwhelmingly positive although many noted how much there is to learn when coming to our district for the first time. We will be assessing all responses to ensure we support teachers as needed. Curriculum Guides created by the C&I Department have been provided to all staff for the first time in many years as we move back to a core adopted curriculum District wide. The guides were a large undertaking for C&I over the past year, and were well received by teachers and principals.

Along with the 80+ new teachers we have welcomed to our District, a number of new staff have joined our departments and are already having a positive impact on supports offered to all staff. We welcome these new members of our educational family and thank them for the focus they've already shown to strengthening outcomes for our students.

The impact of the fiber cut has caused several start of year programs to be compromised, including the imaging of laptops for staff. However, the IT Department have worked around the clock to support all staff and have a schedule to get all laptops ready in the earliest timeframe possible.

Strategic goal 4: Financial and operational Stewardship

As the IT Department continues to navigate the impact of the severing of the fiber optic cable, all Departments have worked diligently to have the operations of the District remain stable during this important time. The IT department have ordered three more Starlink high-performance satellite internet units to be installed at Fred Ipalook Elementary, Eben Hopson Middle School, and Barrow High School to support increased internet demands when schools fully reopen.

Great news regarding Harold Kaveolook School rebuild as Civil work is underway! This is the first time this phrase has been used with this project and "clean-up is ahead of schedule". Funding for the gymnasium phase will, upon sale of the 2024 bonds, be within the Engineers Construction Cost Estimate. The Project will be out for bid early October of 2023 and vertical construction will begin spring of 2024.

M&O department is also pleased to report that all sites have received new vehicles for their M&O teams. Unfortunately the orders placed by M&O were not adhered to during the procurement process (which NSBSD does not control) and we have received slightly smaller vehicles than requested. However, Mr Cropsey has reassured us that these will be serviceable in the coming year and we will anticipate proper sized vehicles in the next round of vehicle purchases in FY25.

Initial site visits for the 6year CIP plan are being conducted (4 sites completed). The DEED copy of the District's 6-Year Plan will be submitted by September 1st and the detailed NSB 6-Year Plan as required by the Project Review Committee, for funding consideration, will be submitted by the January deadline.

Finally, the Business office has been working all summer and FY23 audit fieldwork is nearly completed. We thank the Business office team for their hard work in getting that ready in time while navigating the challenges presented by the fiber cut and patchy internet. New payroll procedures are being discussed to create better efficiencies there and there is a timeclock software conversion underway which will improve accountabilities also.

Conclusion:

Our District is extremely fortunate to have so many hard working staff and so many committed community partners to ensure our students get the best possible educational program they can. We are repairing and rebuilding every day and the energy in our buildings is positive leading into our new school year.

Quyanaq to our Board for meeting with us over summer to further sharpen our district focus on high expectations, culturally grounded education. And of course quyanaqpak to our communities for trusting us and supporting us as we rebuild a true community school partnership.