

Superintendent Report

Student Activities:

- Basketball is in full swing with the district, regional and state tournaments in March. NYO and JNYO are also gearing up for local and state Olympics. We will soon have results in the spelling-bee and the Battle of the Books to share many students are participating across the North Slope.
- Congratulations to the Wainwright girls for bringing home the third-place trophy in the Aniak Tournament. The state rankings for basketball show the Wainwright girls in 5th place with the Nunamiut Boys in 3rd place. In 2A, the Tikigaq girls are in 9th and the boys are in 3rd. In 3A, the Whaler girls and boys are both in 3rd in the state. Congratulations on successful seasons thus far. We are looking forward to hearing outstanding results from March Madness.

Curriculum and Instruction:

- Literacy nights, in compliance with Title 3, occurred at two village sites during the month of January. Literacy nights include community, staff, and students with a focus on Reading and Math literacy through read aloud and games. The modeling of games and read aloud provides support for parents to engage students at home.
- Battle of the Books (BOB) is hosting the district competition February 6. Results will be forthcoming.
- 19 District staff attended the Response to Intervention (RTI) Conference in Anchorage January 25-26. Every school was represented at this conference. Participants will provide professional development at their site based on their newly acquired skills and knowledge during district and site in-services.
- The Curriculum Committee is in the planning stage of a 5-day workshop, at the end of the year, to review and update NSBSD curriculum, via Rubicon, as per board policy.

Assessment and Accountability:

- ACCESS testing (Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English for English Language Learners) is underway in four buildings, with the goal of being complete prior to the beginning of March. ACCESS is a test given to students from Kindergarten to Twelfth grade to assess their progress in learning English.
- ACT administration is scheduled for February 25. The number of school participating increased from 3 SY18-19 to 8 for SY19-20. This year we have 85 students participating in comparison to last year's approximately 20 students. Thank you to the counselors for providing the leadership and support at each site and for encouraging students to register.
- NWEA-MAP Benchmark testing window closed Friday, January 31, 2020 with all sites participating and data disseminated to site administrators.

Career Technical Education (CTE and RLC)

- Students are now applying and attending AK EXCEL foundation sessions- 12 students attended EXCEL foundation sessions in the month of January. And now that students and parents are receiving EXCEL program information, more students are applying for available sessions. Basketball season has limited the number of students able to take advantage of these sessions. However, students involved in sports will have other opportunities to attend EXCEL sessions while those not involved with sports have the opportunity for them now.
- Project Lead the Way pilot is moving forward with one teacher participating in the required training and that teacher will be implementing at least one module this semester in elementary grades.
- Presented the Paxton Patterson Middle School career exploration modules to the curriculum committee for review and comment.
- The NSB directed NSB CIPM to move forward on the renovations for the Old Top of the World. If all goes as planned, the facility could be ready to house students in the spring 2021.
- Meetings are occurring with the AK legislatures and federal authorities to seek financial support for a full range of RLC programming and services.
- Review of all CTE course offerings at each site is occurring to ensure that courses are being taught by teachers experienced in the career areas; industry and certification standards are being followed, and that students are assigned to courses in the order that aligns with the adopted programs of study.
- Reviewing records of the students who are following the Construction plan of study, to determine the courses that need to be offered this spring and summer so those students can advance through their construction plan of study.
- Planning for the distance delivery studio and mobile equipment continues - We had several meetings to determine equipment and set up that will support the instructional needs of those teaching the various types of courses.

Student Services

- The Student Services Department has been working to provide training and support to the students and parents. We continue to work with the special education teachers and counselors to meet the unique needs of our youth. For district in-service ASNA, AWIC, and IBH will be doing a short presentation on their services and how to access them. They will be presenting via distance to our home-school facilitators and school counselors. A big thank-you for all the support and continued collaboration.
- Due to issues with materials, the ASIST and safeTALK training for our new school counselors has had to be postponed. It will be re-scheduled with ASNA as soon as possible.
- Based on Board request and approval, a contract has been drafted for Nick Hanson to come to the Slope March 28-April 11, 2020. Nick's itinerary has him visiting all villages (weather permitting) hosting school and community events. He specifically asked to be a part of night rec so he can have individual conversations with community members. NSBSD staff will set up a "wellness" table with information promoting suicide awareness and local Agency resources.

Inupiat Education

- Inupiaq Education Department staff are teaching two courses. INU 926 1-2 Inupiaq language for Speaking II and North Slope Government using Google classroom and VTC. Tennessee has been focusing on teaching North Slope Government to several sites across the district via distance delivery.
- Department staff has been working with Mark Roseberry, Emmanuel Samuelu, and Everett Haimes, to build and support and distance delivery studio which will provide enhanced distance delivery methods to all sites across the district. These are currently in the works and will be rolled out next academic year.
- The NSBSD Inupiaq App pre-view has been received in this office, and final materials requested have been delivered in part last delivery item will be completed soon.
- The NSBSD and Ilisagvik are sponsoring a free Inupiaq language class at the Tuzzy Library every Tuesday and Thursday ending April 30 2020.
- Tennessee and Dora have been working with Mapkuq Mentors and teachers across the district to ensure they have all the needed supplies for Project Mapkuq unit implementation going into Quarter 3 and Quarter 4. This includes providing materials and resources for implementing cultural-based units either in the Inupiaq Language classrooms, general education classrooms, or collaboratively in both depending on the unit content.
- In addition to this, Tennessee has been focusing her time on supporting the restructure of Rubicon Atlas based on survey feedback from teachers to make the software and database more user friendly for current and future implementation. Tennessee has also been working on completing objectives within the ANEP grant that support new cultural-based unit development.
- Dora and Tennessee have been working to support the Inupiaq Language Teachers with unmet needs for their classrooms, including but not limited to, updating classroom materials, coordinating and supporting ILT collaboration meetings, and providing requested resources on an as needed basis.

Information Technology

Recent accomplishments:

- Cisco VoIP Telephone deployment complete
- Microsoft Exchange software upgrades complete
- Network VLAN consolidation complete
- Point Hope security cameras repaired/fully functional
- Village backups operational
- JAMF MDM (device management) upgrades complete
- Ipalook access point upgrades complete

In progress:

- Apple visit for replacement planning scheduled for February 17th
- E-Sports league being prepared at BHS computer lab
- Evaluating support contract for Microsoft Exchange
- BHS and HMS access point upgrades underway

- InformaCast Fusion integration with VoIP system underway
- Designing multimedia streaming kits for sporting/events for all sites

Issues:

- Core switch malfunctioning (planning CIPM replacement ASAP)
- HMS network ports brittle (planning replacement this Summer)
- CO2 fiber still 1Gbps multi-mode (planning upgrade to 10Gbps single-mode this Summer)
- Secondary vehicle #38 remains down for over a year
- Wainwright elementary wing fiber connection needs replacement
- Ipalook D-Wing fiber needs termination (NSB assistance needed)

Notices:

- Spring network sun outages affecting satellite locations beginning late February

January 31, 2020

Testimony of Superintendent Kathy Ahgeak – North Slope Borough School District

Chair Ortiz and committee members, my name is Kathy Ahgeak. I am superintendent of the North Slope Borough School District located in Utqiagvik, Alaska.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify this morning and share our district's journey to develop our career and technical education – CTE – program and build a residential dormitory for our students.

To begin, I would like to share with you that our school board, borough government, and corporate and industry partners are working closely together and are absolutely determined to meet the Department of Education and Early Learning's mission of delivering 'An Excellent Education for Every Student Every Day.' Our students deserve an outstanding education, and we are determined to provide it for them.

I'd like to start by providing the committee with a very brief history regarding the development of our residential program and its CTE and academic components.

In 2012, our regional leaders set a priority of creating a residential program in Utaigvik to better prepare district students for high paying jobs in the North Slope oil industry and for further education.

In 2013, this group hosted an Education and Workforce Development Summit in Utqiagvik for village leaders from across our region. They invited CTE experts from other rural Alaska school districts to share insights about how they built residential dormitories and operated CTE programs in a way that served all students in their districts. At that meeting, the North Slope Borough committed to provide our school district additional financial support to supplement the costs of operating a residential program.

In 2014 and 15, North Slope leaders held public meetings in all North Slope communities to discuss plans and gain support for the establishment of a residential high school program that would serve high school students from all North Slope communities by providing short- and long-term courses that could not be feasibly delivered in small high schools.

In 2016, we identified land for construction of the dormitory and during the 2016-17 school year developed a preliminary architectural design. At that time, we also submitted our residential program plan to the Department of Education, which was approved and subsequently funded as part of the residential stipend program. Later that year, much to our dismay, the construction of the residential program dormitory was put on hold for financial reasons.

In 2017, the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation stepped forward and offered a vacant hotel for use as the residential dormitory. Since that time, we have been busy with plans to retrofit the hotel for use as a dormitory and will be sending the project out for bid in the next few weeks.

If all goes according to schedule, we will award a contract soon and begin work over the summer with an intended completion date of October or November 2020. At this time, it is our plan to begin operation of our residential dormitory at the beginning of the second semester in January 2021.

In addition to the courses it provides in Utqiagvik, the Residential Learning Center will distance deliver courses to our small high schools to provide academic foundation skills for success in our CTE program. All CTE courses have been approved as part of our application to the Department of Education and meet federal guidelines set by the Carl Perkins Act.

Our residential dormitory will also house students from our villages who are involved in advanced academics that are offered at Barrow High School.

Building our residential program and distance delivery courses will offer the most economical, efficient, and effective way to provide quality education that our students need and deserve. This program is absolutely critical to our success. The CTE and academic opportunities will provide our students with the needed skills to succeed and contribute to their families, communities, and our state.

Our CTE Director, Mr. Mark Roseberry, is also online and can answer any specific questions you may have about our CTE program, our construction schedule, or partnerships we have with business and industry.

If you desire any additional information about our residential program, please contact me.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.