



# NORTH SLOPE

## BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

— *Striving For Excellence* —

### **Administrative Report:**

I would like to thank the Board for this opportunity to serve as your Interim Superintendent. As we prepare for a new school year we are continually reminded that we still are in the pandemic. While hopefully in the later stages of COVID-19 we must remain cautious and take measures to keep all of the students and citizens safe. That said we must do everything possible to get back to full-time, in-person learning. As you are aware we will begin the year full-time and in-person. This decision is based on the guidance from the CDC, the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, and after a discussion with several local health officials. We are attempting to “follow the science”. As we all know following the science is sometimes a moving target. Only a few short weeks ago the science indicated that masks were no longer necessary for people that were fully vaccinated. However, the recent surge in new cases both across the country and statewide has results in a change of course by the medical officials. For schools it is now recommended that all staff and students (with some exceptions) wear masks while indoors. While not very popular it is the safest way to proceed. Therefore, I am recommending universal masking for all staff and students in the North Slope Borough School District while indoors. In addition, the mitigation plans that were developed last spring will be followed.

We will also be updating those plans in the next few weeks as required by state and federal regulations. We will monitor data provided by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and make changes as necessary. All of us had hoped the nightmare of the past 18 months would be over by now. Perhaps by exercising caution we will turn the tide and be back to normal in the near future.

Despite Covid-19, it is exciting to see our students return to school full time. All but one of the schools will open on August 12. Harold Kaveolook School has adjusted their calendar and will open a bit later, a week later, August 19.

In preparation for the coming school year, staff in-services have begun. On July 28 and 29 our principals participated in an in-service training. This training was conducted live at Ipalook Elementary School and it seemed like all staff were happy to get back to face to face training. While a wide range of topics were covered, the reopening of schools seemed to be the dominate topic. The follow-up survey indicates the principals were generally pleased with the training. The district office staff did a great job organizing and conducting this in-service. It was observed to obvious to me right from the start that we have a talented, dedicated and highly professional team of central office people. I would like to thank them for all of their hard-work.

From August 2<sup>nd</sup> to August 6<sup>th</sup> we conducted our New Teacher In-service. This was conducted via zoom with various departments and presenters providing important information (note: the number of new hires and opening will be discussed later in the meeting by HR Director David Camp).

I want to thank the Board for the opportunity to attend the Alaska Superintendent Association (ASA) Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) Annual Summer Meeting. This is a critical meeting to get the latest updates on what's in store for the new school year. We heard from various state and national leaders and had an opportunity to meet with DEED Department Director, the Commissioner of Education Michael Johnson and other superintendents to discuss issues that we will face during the coming school year.

As we look to the 2021-22 school year there are obvious challenges that must be faced and overcome. The most immediate and pressing challenges facing both the district and our society as a whole is to return to some sense of normalcy. The pandemic has taken its toll on all of us but perhaps none more than our students. Getting our students safely back to normal with person to person instruction is our most immediate goal for eighteen months we did the best we could by providing distance learning, but now it is time to regain the loss of learning with academic, social, and emotional learning.

Finally, a personal challenge will be help facilitate a smooth transition to the next full-time superintendent. That is one of the primary responsibilities as an interim superintendent and I will do my best to assist in that transition.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to serve as your interim superintendent and I look forward to being part of your team.