

Tikigaq SAC Report
December 2021

Tikigaq School Advisory Committee

President – Rex Rock, Sr
Vice President – Ryan Rock
Secretary – Rochelle Frankson
Member – Hazel Oktollik
Member – Cathy Williams

Beginning in August and running until the end of October, it is estimated that over 350 individuals, in Point Hope had active cases of Covid. This caused the Tikigaq School to be closed from the second week of the school year until November 3, 2021. At that time Tikigaq School was able to return to Face-to-Face Instruction.

One of the changes that came out of the Covid surge was the Trilateral Committee developed a protocol for the community in order to keep Tikigaq School open. It was understood that Covid will be with us for an undefined time, closing school does not help our students succeed academically and closing school does not serve the community. With that in mind the Trilateral Committee decided, that as long as Point Hope has less than 50 active cases school will remain open with the wearing of masks and thorough, regular cleaning.

At this time Tikigaq School is conducting In-Person Instruction. In addition, we are allowing Night Recreation six days per week, High School Basketball practice, archery and we hope to begin fencing in January. The Boys Basketball Team will be travelling to Anchorage twice in December and

Last year, Tikigaq School had 142 days of in person instruction and doing so, this year it has been a challenge. We were able to travel for sports and even won a State Basketball Championship. There were several things that we, as a community learned. These are:

1. Students need to be physically in school working with teachers and paraprofessionals.
2. The technology infrastructure is not adequate and the number of students with access to Internet is limited. Zoom instruction on a cell phone, in the morning, seemed to be one of the best options.
3. Contact between the school, parents and students is essential. Checking up on students and making sure that parents have the support to help their children is very important.
4. Parents struggle with helping students with their school work and feel overwhelmed.
5. It's best to slow down instruction if all students are learning foundational skills.
6. Mental health is important for everyone. Taking a break, getting some fresh air, talking with friends and exercise can all help to stay healthy.
7. Keeping school routines and the school environment as close to normal as possible can help everyone feel that it isn't so scary and that we are safe.

School Goals:

1. Maintain a Covid free community to allow our students to attend school in person.
2. Always improve student attendance, credit completion and graduation rate.
3. Continue to work on recruiting staff, both certified and classified.
4. Never lose sight that we are here for our students.

Concerns:

1. Internet speed is limiting when we try to access online resources. Most students and families have limited access to the Internet. Cell phones work best.
2. Teacher housing is in need of heating, plumbing and electrical repairs and updates.
3. School kitchen remodel, that was scheduled for the Summer of 2021, did not occur. The flooring, ovens, stove, refrigerators and freezers are in need of repair and replacement. The Tikigaq School SAC would like to have this reviewed and possibly scheduled for this upcoming summer. This is at the level of a health and safety issue.
4. School vehicles are over 10 years old and are in need of replacing or updating.