

Administrative Report

Superintendent David Vadiveloo

Utuqqanaavut kisuiġukkitka – sivulliit utuqqanaallu, paṇmami utuqqanaagiravullu, utuqqanaaġuġumaaqtuallu. Quyanaaġitka paṇmamuraglaan aullatimmagit savaktivut iḷiññaqtuagiravullu. Nalunaigunmigiga sulī iñuuniaġuutilaaqput savaguutilaaqpullu nunanjiññi Iñupiat. Igliqtitchirauvluta minjuaqtuġvinñik kamasuuttaġigikput ikayuiyumiñaaqapta tamatkunani nunani.

Members of the Board and community, another AFN and another Elders & Youth Conference has come and gone, our dancers have done our communities proud and ukiaviuraq is upon us. Thanks to the skills and knowledge of our whalers, the siġluaqs and freezers are full and we're ready for winter. As always we pay our respects to Elders past present and emerging that ground, guide and maintain the rich cultural identity, values and vision of our community.

This month the cumulative effect of the Boards vision, mission and stability, and the hard work of our students and families has been seen across our results and our attendance data. In exciting news, we received AKStar data (grades 3-9 progress in English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics standards) that demonstrates that NSBSD students outperformed the state in their movement toward proficiency. In addition, our attendance data for the past 5 weeks has seen a District average attendance over 80% while Kali, Kaktovik and Nuiqsut have all had weekly attendances of over 90%. Reform on the scale we are delivering is challenging and requires all hands on deck. But our students, families and staff are committed, and the rewards of three years of rebuilding are being seen more and more regularly. So 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.

CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE CALENDAR TOWN HALLS: In September, Members of the Board, the Superintendent and several directors attended community town hall meetings in Tikiġaq, Anaktuvuk Pass, and Ulġuniq. During these gatherings, we shared attendance rates, student academic proficiency information, and had rich community conversations about whether the communities would like a more culturally relevant calendar that balances hunting and other culturally significant times with open session times for school. These meetings have given us the opportunity to hear directly from community stakeholders, answer questions, and generate conversation about how best to meet the needs of students.

ELDERS & YOUTH and AFN: As part of our ongoing stakeholder partnership, twenty-four students travelled with MYAC and many more students traveled with families to attend Elders and Youth and AFN. This critical gathering of Native communities, Elders and Youth, saw our students embracing their culture, history and future as they danced, attended leadership sessions with Elders, and held collaborative dialogue with Native communities from across the State. District staff supported Ilisaġvik College with their workshop sessions and the Superintendent held meetings with partnership stakeholders including Santos and Conoco to discuss their supports for our students and programs.

CSAC ELECTIONS: The new Community School Advisory Council (CSAC) policies are in place and following elections the District will offer two rounds of training to all SAC members. Local community members playing a vital advisory role for our District and we are looking forward to working alongside the newly formed CSAC's.

Domain: Culturally Responsive Instruction

Goal: All students perform at or above grade level

STUDENT PROFICIENCY & ATTENDANCE: Student data is just one metric for assessing the growth of a child but it is abundantly clear that our students are experiencing positive growth academically. A highlight has been our third grade students who are exiting third grade at a higher proficiency level, with the portion or percentage of students who are most at risk decreasing significantly to the extent we are outpacing the State in moving students toward proficiency. This consistent trend means that what we are doing in terms of our pedagogy, our high quality instructional materials, and the increased focus on interventions is moving the needle at a faster rate than we have seen in quite some time. Results like these are reflective of the commitment being made by students, families and teachers and as our attendance data consistently lifts over the Board minimum of 80% and the District moves closer and closer to the Strategic Plan goal of 90%.

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

QATQIÑÑIAGVIK: Twenty-two students participated in the construction and healthcare pathways this past month. Our healthcare pathway is new to the district, working closely with AHEC, Ilisaġvik College and North Slope Borough Community Health to bring classes to students in the region. The first healthcare session focused on careers and the second course in the series was an introduction to behavioral health. During the class students were able to earn a certification in first aid and CPR. Students who are interested in continuing in this pathway will have an opportunity to return in the spring to earn their ETT credential.

Students in the construction course completed portions of the NCCER Core certification, and many of them also obtained their OSHA-10 certification. Students began construction of a shed that they will finish during the next portion of this pathway in December.

TUMITCHIAT SIVUNMUN PLANS: At today's work session the Board were taken through an overview of the new TS Period. As discussed, this period operationalizes an important element of the Boards Strategic Plan and explicitly addresses Board and community requests to see more intentional and focused learning time directed to Student pathways and careers, Student social and emotional wellbeing and Student leadership. As the TS period embeds itself in school schedules the families of our students, and teachers from year to year, will soon be able to follow the pathways of students and identify interests and strengths to be nurtured.

Goal: Graduate bilingual students

Domain: Student Social & Emotional Wellbeing

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

STUDENT SERVICES: Dr Sharon Lemmert, Josh Stein and the SEL team have been inundated with behavioral health issues from across the District. This first quarter has highlighted the urgent need for regional behavioral health supports for our young people. In August and September the team worked with 55 students referred for additional support by principals, counselors, or teachers.

These referrals have included crisis situations, safety concerns, trauma, family stressors, and mental health needs. To meet the needs of students the team has Traveled to village sites, conducted home visits for families needing follow-up or extra support, responded to student and family crises, including after-hours calls when needed and partnered with principals and counselors for classroom presentations and student discussions on current issues.

The Superintendent is currently working with NSB health and the Mayors office to try and place at least 2 or 3 additional social workers who can support students in our schools while working under the NSB license and insurance.

Staff Support & Professional Development

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

DISTRICT WIDE PD: The September and October District wide In-services are completed with focused sessions on adopted core programs, culturally responsive practices, secondary reading across all content areas, the Tumitchiat Sivunmun Period, and reviews of student data in preparation for parent conferences. In addition, we had several teacher-led sessions as we continue to ask staff to lead for their peers. We also

provided “Integration Time” where staff had the opportunity to work together to integrate new learning into their lesson planning and classroom practice.

During the month staff also

completed mandatory training modules through Vector Solutions, which included:

- Understanding Boundaries – Establishing and maintaining professional boundaries with students, families, and colleagues.
- Discrimination Awareness in the Workplace – Developing awareness of implicit bias and strategies to foster an inclusive, respectful workplace.
- Avoiding Discriminatory Practices – Promoting equitable practices and ensuring compliance with legal and ethical standards.

These trainings reinforce the District’s commitment to providing a safe, inclusive, and supportive work environment for all students and staff.

RECRUITING: We are beginning to investigate the use of virtual subs for our sites most in need. These virtual subs are being utilized in other rural districts within the state to cover teacher shortages and to ensure that students are receiving quality instruction regardless of vacancies. While having an in-person teacher is always best, we are heavily vetting potential vendors to ensure that they are safe, reliable, and highly qualified educators who understand the intricacies of providing content area instruction over distance. In addition we are working with site administrators and adding paras where necessary to ensure that a para or other district employee will be present to act as a facilitator in the classroom.

This will be a short term patch for an ongoing struggle with recruiting. By way of context, in 2022 when this administration commenced it was estimated there were 300,00 teacher vacancies in the US. Just three and a half year later the estimated vacancy number has increased to over 400,000.

Financial & Operational Stewardship

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

FINANCIAL AUDIT: The FY25 Financial Audit is complete, and the Board will receive a report from the independent auditors, Altman, Rogers & Co. at today’s regular meeting. The District has also moved forward with issuing the Financial Statements separate from the Federal Compliance due to a delay from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in issuing Federal Compliance information.

ACCOUNTING SYSTEMS UPGRADE: Tyler Technologies Infinite Visions, is currently being moved to the cloud. This move should allow for staff in the villages to better access and use the program, and will also allow for efficiencies for departments. The migration to the cloud started on September 24th, and the project should be completed by the end of October or early November.

KAKTOVIK GYM: The IT Department recently traveled to Kaktovik to connect the under-construction gym to the main campus, allowing UIC to proceed with installing the PA system, IP speakers, building automation controls, and security cameras. This project was only made possible by the support of the teachers, staff and plant manager.

In Summary

To all our staff - directors, departments, custodians, transportation, food services, to our families, community leaders, and students – and to all those who collaborate with us to bring a better and brighter educational experience to all our students, every day – Quyanapqak! To our new Board, thank you for continuing to provide clear guidance and support to achieve the Mission you have set out so clearly for our District. And to those who have lost loved ones we once again send our strength, condolences and prayers. I will close this report with a moment of quiet reflection as I remember our Elder Ethel Kutuuq Burke who often reminded me – “when you are not sure or when you feel like you need to find your way, listen to the quiet of the moon”. As a District we are proud to work for this community and walk beside you and your children every day to help make the future better for all.

End report DSV