

## **Administrative Report**

### **Chief School Administrator / Superintendent David Vadiveloo**

Utuqqanaavut kisuiġukkitka – sivulliit utuqqanaallu, paŋmami utuqqanaagiravullu, utuqqanaaġuġumaaqtuallu. Quyanaaġitka paŋmamuraglaan aullatimmagit savaktivut ilĩññaqtuagiravullu. Nalunaigunmigiga sulı inuuniaguuutilaaqput savaguutilaaqpullu nunañiñni Iñupiat. Igliqtitchirauvluta miñuaqtuġviñnik kamasuuttaġigikput ikayuiyumiññaqpta tamatkunani nunani.

Members of the Board and members of the North Slope community, as a school district we recently celebrated Inuit Day and Eben Hopson Sr day on the North Slope. This is a special day for our North Slope community and students and staff held classes, created booklets and short films and artwork to reflect the contribution that Eben Hopson Sr made – a commitment that so many leaders and community members in the past and present have made to ensure Iñupiaq values and vision are what directs our organizations.

Just a few weeks prior to Eben Hopson Sr day, our District wide student council President Austin Bennet from Atqasuk opened a whole of district in-service. And then last week I had the pleasure of speaking with a sophomore class at BHS and I was pleased to witness their curiosity, intelligence, critical thinking and classroom behavior. I believe Eben Hopson Sr would have been proud to see students at this age stepping up to leadership responsibilities and engaging with the operational story of our district, the history of our region and thinking about their next steps – their Tumitchiat Sivunmun plans for the future.

Accordingly, we start this Board Report by recognizing the Elders that have guided this path, and as an administration we re-state how honored we are to work and live on the self-determined sovereign lands of the Iñupiaq people. We pay our respects to Elders on the Board and all Elders, past, present and emerging. And we thank the community for entrusting us as partners in the education and growth of their children.

This past month has seen student successes, staff successes and the start of our next step in the transformation of our district. Having conducted 18 months of operational and curriculum repair, we are able to now invest targeted and intensive attention on the instructional needs, growth pathways and developmental pathways of our students.

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, Authentic assessment of the whole child*

As mentioned, on October 26<sup>th</sup> Nuiqsut senior Austin Bennett opened the staff in-service with a powerful acknowledgement in both Iñupiaq and English. Staff were overwhelmingly grateful and the administration was equally proud.

Eben Hopson Sr day was celebrated across all sites district wide and examples of the great work of students are in your packet.

Our Iñupiaq education department continue their work with elder Martha Stackhouse teaching a unified sixth period in conversational Iñupiaq across the multiple villages. This program is growing month by month and demonstrating the hunger of our students to hear and speak their language. An Iñupiaq language scope and sequence is being used to guide the program and the first language knowledge competition is being prepared.

Across the district the implementation of the Reads act continues with all K-3 teachers and students becoming increasingly familiar with the new rigor and structure of this initiative. Supported by the

Curriculum and instruction department and their instructional coordinators the district continues to support teachers as we focus on quality tier one instruction resulting in improved growth and achievement for our students.

Bullying remains a focus for building behavior and there has been a decrease in reports but we know this remains a problem. Anti-bullying and Child Protection Units are available through the Second Step curriculum and School counselors/social workers have been asked to work with their principals and schedule guidance lessons in the classrooms.

The issue of student social and emotional wellbeing has been discussed many times with the Board and during our recent Alaska Association of School Boards conference it was once again top billing for concerns being expressed by students and districts. The Administration has brought this to the attention of the new Mayor and we have also met recently with the NSBEA as part of a regularly scheduled school safety meeting to discuss teacher and student wellbeing.

All school sites have been allocated funded hours for After School Tutoring and buildings are in process of providing that tutoring. The 20 day count took place during October and unfortunately our numbers are down. This is a state-wide pattern post-covid and makes it even more important that we remain committed to the minimum 80% attendance rate across all schools. While this month saw a dip in attendance we are still tracking much higher than last year and we ask parents and guardians to maintain that commitment to educational engagement for your students.

Our district wide instructional intervention initiative continues to see visits to schools by secondary and elementary instructional coaches and combined with the work of existing interventionists at sites, student growth is slowly but surely being seen. Sites visited to date include Kaktovik, Nuiqsut, Atqasuk, Ipalook Elementary, Hopson Middle School, Barrow High School, and Point Lay. Drilling down into student outcomes and orienting to a district wide intensive focus on the achievement gap for our students will be part of a comprehensive presentation to the Board at the December retreat.

Finally, a huge congratulations to all our volleyballers for their efforts this year! Congratulations to our Atqasuk school staff for hosting another terrific Regional event. All teams were commended for their spirit and sportsmanship and of course a big congratulations to the Region 1A mix-6 champions Anaktuvak Pass. An equally big congratulations to the Barrow Whalers girls volleyball team who made State this year and picked up the sportsmanship award. The District administration is exceptionally proud of not just the achievements of our student athletes this year but just as importantly we are proud of the way they have been playing. Iñupiaq values and character will continue to be our focus and our brand.

### **Strategic goal 2: Community engagement**

Pedagogy Domains: Culturally Responsive Instruction, Family & Community Collaboration

This past month Assistant Superintendent Mulvenon spent important time with our Tikigaq community and school including attending the ASNA community event last Friday. COO Dr Bolen also spent important time in Nuiqsut observing the operations of the school and getting to know our students, families and teachers out there.

As presented during the Board work-session, the Alaska Reads Act is a critical new piece in the state focus on literacy. To support parents the District has created two radio shows that explain the initiative and point them towards support for at-home reading.

The administration has been meeting with stakeholders and partners this month including the regional tribe ICAS. Our discussions with ICAS continue to focus on how we can partner to ensure the best possible educational service is offered to all students on the North Slope. We met with the State and ICAS to discuss the State Tribal Education Compacting (STEC) process. As the Board is aware, ICAS is one of 5 tribes who are part of negotiations toward a demonstration STEC. We've been advised that the

process will move to its next phase should the legislature adopt a Bill currently proposed for January. The District has not seen the detail of the draft Bill but should it be adopted the Tribe will have 2 years to get a school program operational. If adopted, Districts with STEC schools will enter into discussions with the Tribe to discuss shared resource management in certain areas of operations.

The Board also heard during the work session about the re-introduction of the juvenile support program that the NVB are seeking to partner with the District to support. And during this month we also met with the City to request their support for the District hosting of the April 2024 Alaska Association of Student Government conference.

The District continues to work closely with Iḷisagvik College and the University of Alaska Fairbanks to articulate the Iḷisaurriḡuqta program. The District is working to support our first cohort of teacher trainees in the spring semester to get them on track for progressing toward teacher certification.

We've also been partnering with Arctic Education Foundation and Arctic Slope Community Foundation on projects and initiatives that will continue to enhance Iñupiaq Education and support our NSBSD Pedagogy Implementation plan. This includes supporting the Iḷisaurriḡuqta program and developing out a plan for the Master-Apprentice language speaker program.

With the help of the Borough CIPM Department the new Playground project in Atqasuk is on a fast track to be built in the early summer 2024. The Architect and the District's Temporary CIP Coordinator attended a Community/ SAC meeting on Nov 10 to gather community input for the equipment and design for the playground. This is a wonderful example of a City (through Mayor Whitemena) and the NSB and NSBSD working on collaborative project development to benefit our communities and students.

### **Strategic goal 3: Staff success**

Pedagogy domain: Staff Support & Professional Development

As the Board have heard from Director Roth, staff have enjoyed a comprehensive range of supports this month including School Wide Positive Behavior in Schools Tier 1 training and Adverse Childhood Experiences training. In addition, as mentioned by Director Roth, our Staff Wellness Program has continued this month.

A Project Mapkuq unit review has been completed in the Chalk platform. This will further strengthen support for sites and individual teachers in regards to understanding the Iñupiaq Learning Framework and culture-based units and implementation. The Iñupiaq ed team also continue to identify gaps in grade level maps or content area maps, enabling them to work on developing units that will be accessible by teachers to enhance the options of local, place-based curriculum. This includes the input of our Iñupiaq Values units in an accessible map that will be useful for teachers at all grade levels.

Staff attended a handful of conferences this past month including the National Indigenous Education conference, a national transportation conference, a CTE conference and the Alaska Association of School Boards conference which of course had a number of our Board members present. These conferences provide our staff with an opportunity to remain up to date with developments in educational services and programs nationwide while also providing us with a chance to create connections with trainers and in some cases, future employees.

This month also sees the completion of staff evaluations, including Department reviews. These evaluations and reviews are an important part of providing staff with the supports they need to maintain high expectations.

And finally, speaking of high expectations the District sends a big shout out to Charis Dion at Ipalook Elementary who passed the highly qualified paraprofessional test. Paraprofessionals play extremely important roles in improving student achievement where they can reinforce teacher's instruction in the

classroom. Alaska regulation requires instructional paraprofessionals to meet high standards of qualification, so we congratulate Ms Dion.

**Strategic goal 4: Financial and operational Stewardship**

Pedagogy Domain: Financial & Operational Stewardship

With the audit successfully completed the Finance Department is preparing to present that report to the NSB in early December and is also working closely with the Superintendent to prepare a draft preliminary budget for delivery to the Board before January 1st.

The District has not had an Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) Inspection / Report since 2018. The COVID disaster meant that many school districts in Alaska did not have inspections within the Federally required 3-year time frame. The District contracted with South East Regional Resource Centre to perform the required inspection in November and as we await the report, Director Cropsey advises that it appears there were no concerns. Our new Emergency response coordinator Ty Cunningham has started work and has already had an impact - finalizing our district wide evacuation plans and planning a schedule of visits to work with sites on emergency response and building safety.

Ałak School has a heating and ventilating problem which was reported to us during a site visit earlier this year. M&O have retained the services of Alaska Air Balancing (AAB) to work on balancing the system. AAB will also prepare a repair report which will lead to a Repair and Replace Contract to fix the system. CIPM has agreed to pay for the AAB contract and the repair contract out of existing project funding for the School.

The phones system at Tikigaq has finally been addressed. IT staff flew to Tikigaq during the month and conducted tests, replacement of equipment and bypass services to ensure the lines are now operating at optimum standard. While on site the team also dealt with other equipment issues and concerns for staff.

Our final operational note this month is a recognition of a staff member who literally may have saved a building. Following the fire disaster at Harold Kaveolook school we are all very aware of the perils of fire in our buildings. So we want to recognize Tikigaq school Plant Manager Gordon Mullen for his astute observation and quick action in identifying a fire in a light fitting on the exterior of the Tikigaq school, notifying the administration and evacuating all students and staff. We have a certificate of appreciation from the District which will be sent to Mr Mullen and we want to formally thank him again for his attention to the safety of our students and staff.

**Conclusion:**

Having conducted 18 months of operational and curriculum repair along with ongoing community inclusion and relationship building, we are finally in a place to turn intensive and focused attention on the instructional needs, growth pathways and developmental needs of our students. This will be difficult work. We must maintain our focus on attendance, attendance, attendance and quality tier one instruction. Our Administration thanks our Board, staff, students, parents and community partners for continuing to support us as we continue to move our district in a positive direction. Quyanapqak and Atautchimukta!