

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

Harold Kaveolook School SAC Report

March 2023

HKS Advisory Council Members:

Alicia Solomon (Seat 3)--President

Melanie Tikluk (Seat 4)--Vice President

Noreen Kayleak (Seat 1)

Dorothy Sittichinli (Seat 5)

vacated (Seat 2)—Secretary

1. Our School Advisory Council oversaw the process of revisiting and redefining some of the beliefs and expectations held by Kaktovik community members. The SAC convened to develop a 1st draft of a document outlining these beliefs and expectations. This document was then used as a starting point for a separate meeting with parents and guardians. Two meetings were then held with all middle and high school students to gather their input. The principal then developed a 2nd draft which reflected the feedback received from the meeting with parents, guardians, and students. The principal, with the approval of the council, sent this home to all parents and guardians with a returnable form requesting feedback. The principal then developed a 3rd draft which was approved by the SAC. This document is attached.
2. No plans as of yet have been made to fill the SAC Secretary vacancy.
3. Student lockers for the new school are being purchased and delivered early (barge) because our SAC believes it is important for students to have their own space at school.
4. Groups involved with the construction of our new school continue to meet with community members and with school and district staff to discuss revised building proposals. (Our last such meeting specifically for our SAC had to be cancelled. SAC members were at the community meeting though.)
5. To date, two SAC members have been included on all certified recruitment interviews.
6. Five students are leaving on March 31st for a trip to tour UAF, UAF Community Technical College, Ilisagvik, and the Technical Training Center in Prudhoe Bay.

Parent, Guardian, Student, & Community Expectations relating to Harold Kaveolook School.

(Revised 2/2/23)

Harold Kaveolook School is an educational institution of the Inupiaq people. We are located within Inupiaq sovereign territory. We seek council from the Inupiaq people of Kaktovik, Alaska as we work to improve, for the benefit of all, the educational experience at The Harold Kaveolook School.

Parents, guardians, students, School Advisory Council members, and school staff were invited to help create this document. This is the 3rd revision. It is important that we all understand and agree upon, to the greatest extent possible, the way we do business as Kaktovik Rams.

We, the Kaktovik Rams, share the following beliefs...

1. We believe in raising our kids to know and to embrace Inupiaq values.
2. We believe that all students should take great pride in their school. We are the Rams of the Harold Kaveolook School in Kaktovik, Alaska!
3. We believe that students should be reminded every day of the work their Elders accomplished in order to establish a community school. Today's students, their families, and their community are the living beneficiaries of the hard work of their Elders.
4. We believe that photos of our past Whaling Captains and other historical photos of Elders should be visible in our school.
5. We believe that Inupiaq Elders, and future Elders, should feel welcome and honored at school.
6. We believe that our students will continue to rise to high expectations.
7. We believe that the President of our Student Council should become a member of The Harold Kaveolook School Advisory Council.
8. We believe it is important for middle and high school students to have their own traditional locker space. Having their own space will help students solve some of the challenges they currently face within the classroom.
9. We believe that, as parents and guardians, we should be notified as soon as our kid(s) begin to have any behavioral concerns. Similarly, we also appreciate "Good News" calls.
10. We believe our students are growing into mature and responsible adults. As such, students may, at the discretion of their teachers, listen to music on their phones during independent work time. Students may, at times, be asked to use their phones for direct instructional purposes.
11. We believe that students should always have access to water while they are in the classroom. Juice, Gatorade, and flavored water, while not recommended as healthy alternatives to water, may be allowed in the classroom. If students bring other drinks from home they must be kept in the student's locker or cubbies. *(Over...)*

12. We believe that food should not be allowed in the classroom, other than for snack programs approved by the principal working collaboratively with the local food service manager. (Younger grades, special events, health concerns etc.) Otherwise, snacks should be kept in the students' lockers. Students don't learn well when they're hungry. If a student is hungry in class, the teacher, the principal, the food service manager, and the parent will work to solve the problem.
13. We believe that students who are struggling academically should receive afterschool tutoring. In most cases, middle and high school students should be tutored by middle and high school teachers. Elementary students should be tutored by Elementary teachers. Tutoring is not a time for enrichment activities or for Study Hall.
14. We believe that our students must have access to PE and to other related classes designed to improve physical fitness.
15. We believe that extra-curricular activities can have a profound effect on the lives of students. Students who are working hard, attending school regularly, as determined by the principal, and meeting AHSAA eligibility requirements, should be allowed to travel and/or participate in extra-curricular activities
16. We believe that students should be in class from the start until the end of each class period. Students should always have access to the restroom and to our water fountains.
17. We believe that students should be recognized for responsible behavior. This may include being able to earn a class party or some other positive activity.
18. We believe that students will learn many important lessons by reading to or with another student. We believe that a Buddy Reading Program is important.
19. We believe it is important for students to know what is expected of them. Middle and high school students should be required to read and sign a contract indicating that they have been informed of, and that they understand, these expectations.
20. We, the members of our School Advisory Council, want to be informed of, and to learn about, new initiatives the school is considering for implementation. This includes strategies to help students who are struggling with behavioral concerns.

We love our kids and we want them to be well prepared to live a happy and successful life. This is our greatest desire.