

Inupiaq Education - Tennessee Judkins

I firstly want to apologize for a late report, as I have been playing catch up fairly quickly after being on medical leave with my son for the past two months. With that being said, I want to be sure to provide a brief summary of updates from our department.

We continue to work with Fadil and the Business Office to ensure we formulate a spending plan for the approved transfer of funds since the Board has requested that. Our initial intentions were to bring that forward to the Board at the January meeting, but we will intend to have the presentation ready for the March meeting.

We recently hired Atuqtuaq Chrisann Justice as a transfer to our department full time at the Instructional Inupiaq Language Specialist. She was previously the ILT at Barrow High School for 9 years. Before that, she worked in our department for 7 years and has been with the district for a total of 16 years. Her main focus right now is working directly with the ILT's in supporting their language proficiency, reaffirming their current toolbox, and equipping them with more tools to utilize in their classrooms. She will be traveling out to the villages working one-on-one with ILT's to support them with their classroom needs and provide tailored training for them. She will also be taking the lead on working with the ILT's to formulate a visual Scope & Sequence for our ILT Program utilizing the Accelerate Second Language Acquisition method along with all the other tools used to progress language proficiency and acquisition with our students. This will also provide a guide and expectations for our ILT's by grade level and language level as well as principals, administration, the board, and community/parents/guardians.

We attended the Quadrilateral meeting between the NSBSD, NSB, ICAS, and Ilisagvik College which provided fruitful information on collaboration between all four organizations and we are looking forward to seeing where the collaboration leads us in the future. We intend to participate in the working groups, as requested, and will ensure that we can aid in helping progress the working groups as well as the objectives and goals of the group.

We will be working with Ronnie Hawley and CTE to see where we have overlap and how we can support any initiatives that they intend to move forward through their intensives. We want to ensure that we collaborate to provide a cultural context and work with local experts on providing local, place-based content for a variety of intensive courses.

We are very excited for the restructure of our department and plans moving forward through the rest of this school year, through the summer, and into the start of next year. We appreciate the support of the administration and the Board and are looking forward to moving forward, doing the hard work, and working towards the goals and objectives of the district and the success of our students.