

# Community Input Summary: Qargi Concept

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\*Preliminary Summary based on input from the following villages:

- Alak – Leadership Team Feedback
- Tikiġaq/Point Hope – Leadership Team Feedback
- Kaktovik – Leadership Team Feedback
- Nuiqsut/AKP– Community Feedback

**OPPORTUNITIES/POSSIBILITIES: What possibilities does the Qargi Concept open up for education and schooling? What might make the Qargi Concept come alive in your village?**

New Approach to Student Achievement/Pride in our School

- Not only acknowledges the need for and desire for a new approach to help our children/students excel
- People and kids taking pride in our school
- The Qargi concept provides a link for education between and school and the community.

Strengthened Community

- *It can bring the community and schools together to teach our kids; to build an understanding with the teachers of our way of life and visa versa.*
- Have the community become strong.

Revival of Culture and Values

- *This would help them to learn the true meaning of our values and learn how to practice them in a western context. It means more to us—the values—because we still practice them and live them and sometimes we don't even realize it until we go outside and realize how much strong our values are.*
- It will revive our culture and values.
- Have values taught to children at school and home.
- It would put respect back into the young people.
- Aligning with Iñupiaq values
- Inupiat Values

Hands-On Learning/Skill Development/Field Trips

- *We need to make Inupiaq learning fun and interesting by teaching it through Inupiaq activities like hunting, fishing, etc.*
- Sled making, boat skin sewing, boat making and tools we need
- Crafts and sewing
- I should bring my waterproof boots here so I could show the kids how they are sewn. They used to melt candle was to reinforce the seams and really make them waterproof. The kids can figure out how they are made. I had a pattern for a caribou skin parka – eastern Canadian Inuit style
- Tuttu skinning and butchering
- Cooking traditional food
- Sod house making
- Hunting survival
- Sewing class
- Mask making
- Sled making
- Napachak making
- How to become homemakers
- Learning plant use

- Sewing class – make masks/ulus/drums/sleds
- Spring field trips

#### Campouts/Hunting/Arctic Survival Skills

- Elders and parents would be able to share traditional knowledge on survival skills out on the land during hunting trips and what to do during snow-machine break-downs or getting caught in a blizzard during travels
- Camping/hunting
- Camping trips
- Camping – cultural classes by experts
- Subsistence hunting
- Traditional hunting
- Spring campout
- Camping
- Arctic survival skills

#### Traditional Games, Events and Cultural Activities

- Traditional games and activities
- Provide traditional events using past activities
- The Qalgi Concept would allow our children and community members to learn traditional and cultural activities which are not being taught anywhere except by the Whaling Captains/wives to their immediate family.
- Native games
- Eskimo dancing
- Cultural activities

#### Arts Integration

- Cultural artwork
- Musical classrooms and arts

#### Motivating Others/Community Members to Teach:

- *The teachers need to take part in this and realize that community members are teachers to. Maybe this can motivate more people to teach—community members could also learn teaching tactics. We have a lot of people who want to be able to teach but they get discouraged seeing textbooks. But if we could show people, for example, how important the whaling captain is—as important as the superintendent of schools. We need to learn how to run our (western) organizations with our values—learn how to meld the two.*

#### Integration of Inupiaq and Western Ways

- *They need to learn both ways; they need to be able to also survive in the western world, to.*

#### Open School Doors/Exchange of Culture

- It will open the doors of our schools and an exchange of culture will happen.

#### Student Engagement: *If we give the child choices—if we let them follow their interests—they will be more engaged.*

- Education should come first—nowadays we see kids in school on their phones. This should not happen.

#### Improve Attendance

- Better school attendance
- Attendance – inspiration to go to school
- State requires 185 days attendance. Let's integrate less classroom days to 175 and 2 weeks fall and 2 weeks spring camping

#### Unity/Working Together/Cooperation/Opens Communication

- “Unity”

- Everybody is working together
- If cooperation happens for what's in the best interest of the child's development, the benefit could be endless.
- It's going to be a better place here, happier.
- Everyone in working together to teach local culture, values and traditions
- Whole village is responsible for education
- *If the school, tribe and cultural organizations work together it will be good.*
- It opens communications between school and community making it two way instead of one way. Would effect important education decisions.

#### Community Engagement/Gatherings

- Invite the community
- Expressing/emphasizing community help and input
- Community gatherings
- Services groups – community classes like cooking and sewing
- “Community Day” like and Iñupiaq pep rally. We could play traditional games like at Christmas and eat native food and just get the whole community gathered and it would be a great time to get volunteers to come back and teach.

#### Instill Respect for Elders

- It should allow the Elders to have more respect in the children's' mind...
- The child's mind is willing to learn, they pay attention to their grandparents.
- Meeting with elders and youth

#### Elder Participation (Whaling Captains/Wives)

- Elders/whaling captain/wives come to school
- Elder involvement
- Elders involvement more than at lunch time – give them a reason to come in
- Elders teaching a class
- Love and respect for our elders more
- Elders conference

#### Local History

- Local history
- Local history, archaeological sites
- History of the island
- Nunamiut History class

#### Traditional Learning/Values/Cultural Alignment

- The Qalgi Concept would allow all to take part in traditional learning.
- Subsistence culture

#### Alignment with PBIS

- Aligning PBIS

#### Knowledge/Incorporation of Inupiaq Language

- *Learn Inupiaq language and culture: Its our birthright. Education needs to be equal for everyone.*
- “Iñupiaq Spelling Bee.” It would make learning fun and competition and a challenge.
- Inupiaq language
- Knowledge of language and writing
- Surround them with the learning of the language; provide more conversational opportunities.

- Teach words, pronunciation and proper grammar but we also need to make sure they are learning the concepts behind the language (words).

#### Communicate with Parents in Inupiaq Language

- Send words, phrases home to parents, grandparents in Iñupiaq to start the language in Iñupiaq

#### Oral Story-Telling/Language

- Language is critical, provide oral stories, learning animal/weather patterns

#### Vocational Ed

- Vocational Education - OJT – Mechanics

#### Pass on to Younger Generation

- Pass on to younger generation

#### Sports

- Skiing and swimming
- Basketball

#### Teacher Engagement/Support/Culture Camps

- Engage teachers in understanding the Inupiaq values and traditions.
- Culture camps for teachers with elders. When they are actively involved, they learn better and it is more meaningful and will allow teachers to have a deeper understanding of the culture.
- Adopt a teacher

#### Enhance Education/Job Readiness

- Getting educated that will be equal to our outside world, able to land a job in and out side world.

#### Cultural TV Programming

- Over the air TV with cultural traditional programming

#### Recovering Artifacts

- Recovering artifacts and explanation of use.

#### Whale as the Center

- Tikiġaq has not lost their Qalgis. We will practice the way we were taught the older ones that grew up in old town site lived it saw it. The Whale is the center.

#### Parents & Elders in the Classroom

- When I first started working here, we use to have parents and Elders come to our classrooms to cut fish, etc. Now I don't see anyone coming. Why? Are teachers afraid to ask?
- Classes with the elders like hunting, camping, fishing, family day, job shadowing
- Adult volunteers coming in

#### Teacher/Parents Working Together

- Teachers – parents. These two were brought up several times last night. They need to work with parents and call for their education together.

#### Display Student Work

- Student work displayed not only at the school but all over so the whole community will see and hopefully praise the child and with praise and rewards come students actually wanting to success and be great.

#### Students Prepared for Life

- Kids who graduate and finish school now often don't know what to do in life. We need to help them think about their futures. Children need to learn responsibility and to think about what to do in life.

#### Mentorship

- Mentorship – local leaders, elders, departmental services, council members, health, land managers, public works

#### Community Taught Classes

- Community taught classes

#### Field Trips/Activities/Events

- School field trips
- More fun Friday

#### Storytelling

- Storytelling, community members invited not only on fun Fridays

#### Materials

- Materials

#### Monitoring/Evaluation

- We as Board need to evaluate our direction to look at which things on our curriculum we will remove so we can implement the Qargi concept.

#### Family History

- Family trees and family history

#### Collaborate with other Villages

- Exchange with other villages

#### Mentoring Programs

- The Qargi Concept is based on what elders are doing; in this case it has to do with the school. He would like to see mentoring programs so the kids can learn what different organizations do and how they are run.

## CHALLENGES/OBSTACLES: What obstacles have to be overcome?

### Time

- Time is always an issue.
- It may be hard for leaders to find time and they may be called on so much that they may get burnt out.
- Time—because of all the things required curriculum—it overshadows all these activities. We have to change a mindset.
- Inertia

### Getting People Involved/Volunteers & Teachers

- Volunteers, division in families, teachers volunteer.
- Volunteers, teachers need to want to be involved.
- Lack of people to come and help.
- Getting people involved. Volunteer.

### Community Division

- Division of our community.
- Division, “Unity” “Unity” willing to let go of the past 30 years hurts. Volunteers.
- Put aside differences and learning to work together and get along, Differences.
- Differences, walls of authority, condemnation, low self-esteem.
- Differences. Unforgiveness.

### Technology

- Technology

### Communication

- Communication

### Parenting

- Sober parents

### Teacher Duties

- I am also concerned that as a teacher, the academic duties in the classroom may change—I don’t want to see these change. She doesn’t want it to become one more thing teachers are charged with doing

### Cell Phones in School

- One obstacle is the cell phone in school. Take the cell phones out from the school. I wish they could stop the cell phones, any kind of device. It keeps them from learning.

### Politics

- Politics and pride and the absence of the target group.

### Funding

- \$ for buildings, never mind it politics.

### Western Way/Language Barriers

- The western way of life. Language Barrier. School policies.

### Educational Level

- Educational level to Anchorage or other schools, diagnostic level.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: What will it take to engage community in making the Qargi Concept come alive and get the community engaged in school?**

### Communication/Outreach/Encouragement

- Communication.
- Daily interaction.
- Communication, encourage more people to get involved.
- More get together meetings and gatherings. Continue being involved with the community.
- Communication: Invitations to meetings
- Community outreach – leader involvement, making an emphasis on reward/potential outcome for children/students, consequences if there is nothing done.
- Recovery of communications that were done on reel to reel tapes of dialogue and storytelling of history shared by relatives from each village.
- Local announcements to advertise school activities
- We need more communication with the community.
- We need to get the word out and make it exciting so they will want to get engaged with the Qargi Concept.

### Campouts/Community & Family Activities

- Start spring campout at trees or anywhere
- Spring ice fishing
- More activities for the community
- Encouragement and communicating with one another
- Family activities
- Family camping and hunting
- School trips down states or anywhere

### Partnerships

- We need partnerships with local organizations—outreach to local employers to establish permanent programs and activities for students.

### Get Involved/Be the Example

- Set an example by volunteering
- Be involved
- Be the example

### Volunteer Recognition/Awards

- Volunteer recognition/awards

### Frequent Announcements/Invitations

- Announcing events in various ways – kids could learn marketing skills

### Local Participation in In-Services

- Let local people participate in teacher in-services.

### Inform/Ensure Community Understanding

- We need to make sure people understand the concept and we need to let the leadership buy into it.
- The community could be formally informed with posters and brochures for them to look at.
- Educate our community about our history and values—they need to know what our leaders had to do to overcome so they are better able to understand how we got to where we are today.

### School Events

- More school events to get village to take part and plan
- Game nights – nyo, napachak, adults vs highschoolers
- I'd like to see more grandparent/parent luncheons.

### Invitation

- Make that phone call to ask a parent once a month to do something; bribe.

### Cooperation & Collaboration

- Cooperation and love each other. Sharing what talents for gifts we each hold.
- "Collaboration" within all the entities.

### Children Inviting Parents/Elders to Participate

- The children asking the grandparents, uncles, aunts, mothers, fathers to come talk in a Qargi situation.
- Letting the kids take the message to their parents is effective—have the kids take it home to get their parents involved.

### Parent Responsibility

- Strong message workshops that inform parents they're responsible for kids education
- More parents should get involved with their children in school.

### Volunteering without Expectation

- Volunteer, giving your time without expectation.

### Traditional Gathering Place/Community Building

- Building "Community Building" Traditional gathering place.
- When they are going to have a meeting they always have door prizes and food. If we gonna have these things happen go to community (center) in the afternoon and have each person bring a dish – find some door prizes – get together and meet, talk with everyone.

### Whale as the Center of Qargi

- The whale is the center of the Qargi and the people of Tikiġaq

### Elder Involvement

- Our elders teach us how to re-speak and understand what the Iñupiaq language is all about.
- Local Elders should visit the classroom to let the kids know we care.

### Collaboration

- Work with other entities to see what they are doing.
- Get all the organizations involved.

### Work with Businesses/Employers

- Work with employers to give people time to come in. We need to open our doors and say, "Hey, we need your help," especially with the units teachers have to create.

### Accountability

- Hold people accountable