

Administrative Report

Chief School Administrator - David Vadiveloo

I acknowledge our Elders, past present and emerging, who continue to provide guidance and wisdom to our District and every staff member and student that makes up our educational family.

I also acknowledge that we stand on the sovereign lands of the Iñupiaq people and we are proud as a District to be trusted to serve the community on these lands.

I also want to take a moment to remember those that we have lost over the past month. It has been a challenging month for many of our families and we send our thoughts and prayers to you as you grieve and heal from the losses.

As we enter the new calendar year it feels like we have turned a very significant page in the story of our District. After 6 months of focusing upon repair we are now in a position to turn our attention to rebuilding and revitalizing. Our Board strategic retreat in early January has delivered an exciting level of clarity and focus for our District and I thank our Board members for their hard work during those retreat days in the Ipalook Library here in Utqiagvik. There were many highlights during the 2 day retreat but surely the one that will echo for many years to come was the expansion of the core mission of our district to produce bilingual graduates.

It was a short month with the Christmas and New Year break but student outcomes and community voice continue to be centered by our administration and District. The instructional team held a retreat of their own over the break and many initiatives and programs were discussed in the interests of prioritizing and aligning our District focus for this semester and into the new 23/24 school year. And over the past month I've had the privilege of spending time with many Elders including Ida Olemaun, Rex and Leona Okakok, Jana Harcharek, Reggie Joule and of course our own Boardmembers Hickman, Brower and Burns. These conversations continue to anchor and ground our administration in the importance of culture, language and values.

With that in mind I'd like to present to our Board and our community the following update on our operations mapped against our Strategic goals and objectives.

Strategic goal 1: Student success

Perhaps the two most important factors in addressing student achievement and success are an explicit mission statement and an intentional, responsive pedagogy (model for our method and practice of teaching) for educators and administration.

At the January strategic planning retreat the Board provided our District with the clarity in our mission that will ensure the administration moves forward with a unified culturally responsive curriculum and operational plan that will benefit all students. Notably our Board have instructed administration to adjust the Mission statement of our District to include the development of bilingual graduates. This is a watershed moment for our District. In our curriculum and in our schedules the Iñupiaq language will no longer be an add-on program for our students that is scheduled in if it can be accommodated. Iñupiaq language acquisition will now be a core priority of our educational program.

We have much work to do in order to get programs ready, schedules aligned and staffing in place. I want to remind our community and our Board that this will require a very intentional and very carefully planned implementation that will require the whole community to partner with and

support us. We will need to identify the required funds to target this area of learning without compromising the delivery of other core areas of education like English literacy, math, science etc. And it will require a growth model that will develop over many years. But we will do it.

At the January strategic planning retreat the Board also got to look at and revise and refine the district's new NSBSD educational and operational pedagogy. This pedagogy is in the final stages of its working draft and will provide our students and parents with certainty, transparency and clear accountability for the delivery of education in our schools. Focus areas include lifting ECE-3 literacy, re-energizing CTE / voc-ed, supporting social and emotional wellbeing for all students, explicit career pathways for high school students and of course a culturally responsive curriculum and language instruction.

The two main components of the Alaska Reads Act that our C&I team are working on are an elementary reading curriculum adoption, and a new assessment platform for early literacy screening. They are presently in an adoption cycle for elementary reading materials, and have been piloting a new program called "Into Reading." By all accounts, our teachers appreciate the materials and find them a good fit to our students.

Importantly, all student records from our first Semester have been transcribed and stored. Classes for Semester 2, and schedules have been finalized at each building. C&I staff have been working diligently with principals and counselors to ensure that high school students have access to all courses needed for graduation.

To continue our commitment to student voice and wellbeing, Board Student Representative Maggie Stringer and Student Services Director Roth have been collaborating to set up a District-wide Student Council. Maggie will share more information in her report. To support our students with behavioral expectations and school standards, a work group has been formed to review the current Discipline Matrix. The district is also working to develop social emotional standards for our students across the grades. Information will be taken from the ILF and other sources to help develop these standards. Director Roth of Student Services will speak to these items further in her highlighted report.

While our student numbers remain solid post-covid, student attendance is a daily concern for the District. Student growth and achievement cannot be made without consistency of attendance. While we recognize that families are key to getting children to the door on time, strengthening our partnerships with families is a job the District must do better and will be critical to improving these numbers. As part of that process we are also looking at our outreach, follow-up and attendance incentives. A district wide poll has been taken from sites on incentives and this will be followed up with a district wide conversation between site administrators to develop consistent and effective outreach, parent messaging and follow-up about attendance and incentive plans.

Student physical safety is also key to any student success and the District has recently completed the written Emergency Evacuation Plans for Kaktovik, Kiita, BHS, HMS and IPK. Completed plans for all villages are in progress and first evacuation drills will be commencing on a rolling schedule from late January. This rollout is high priority and has taken longer than we had hoped but the process demands collaboration and consultation with all stakeholders and we are ensuring it is a thorough implementation.

Strategic goal 2: Community engagement

Success for our District's students relies on community engagement. As we grow our language programs we will continue to meet with the immersion teachers from the original program two decades ago, we will continue to speak with elders, masters linguists and community members about providing staffing options for conversational programs in our schools. We will also be planning our own NSBSD Grow Your Own program called *Ilisaurriqta* ("Lets become teachers!") with the purpose of supporting the development of a stream of language speakers and certified local teachers for the district and our students.

Unfortunately I had to cancel my trip to Atqasuk this month due to the funeral but I have replacement dates set for February. The C&I department have had ECE literacy coach and coordinator Lorrie Scoles in Nuiqsit to support their school, Assistant Superintendent Geiser was at Kali school last week and COO Luthi is currently in AKP to talk more about community/school partnerships and local staffing engagement. These ongoing community visits by staff are directed to ensuring our District administration have an opportunity to listen first hand and strengthen partnerships.

Community/school behavioral expectation plans remain an important focus for the District as we map out collaboration with communities in school-wide behavior management. Director Roth will speak further to that.

Finally, the Christmas games were a wonderful success yet again this year. Our sincere thanks to all the M&O staff who came out to support the program and in particular to Tomi Phillips for her outstanding management. And with Kivgiq around the corner, we are pleased to be housing dancers and others for the Kivgiq celebration.

Strategic goal 3: Staff success

Consistent and stable employment conditions plus staff opportunities for professional growth results in improved service to our district and builds loyalty and longer term sustainable employment outcomes.

After the challenges of last year, it's pleasing to announce that tenured, non-tenured and site administrator contracts for next year have been issued. This is a win-win, providing certainty to staff and placing the district in a strong position knowing our staff numbers heading into the recruiting season. All contracts this year were sent with the new district pedagogy framework so all staff are also aware of the direction we are heading in and the pedagogy we will be implementing in 2023/24.

As mentioned, we are planning our own NSBSD Grow Your Own program called *Ilisaurriqta* ("Lets become teachers!") and have been having discussions with Ilisagvik College and the University of Alaska to support the options and strongest possible program we can for our staff.

Next week a range of Admin and teaching staff will attend the RTI (Response to Intervention) MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Support) conference in Anchorage. This is an important opportunity for district leaders and staff to join together and discuss targeted interventions to support student development.

Lori Roth and Jimmy Capps have started providing Crisis Intervention Training to home school facilitators. Lori will speak further about this in her report

Finally, we are excited to welcome Ms. Bernadette Fischer as the newest member of the NSBSD Director group. Our new Director of M&O will commence in February and will continue to receive support from Steve as he transitions out of the position.

We also want to announce that our new finance director Tammy Stromberg will commence in March.

Strategic goal 4: Financial and operational Stewardship

As part of our ongoing efforts to meet the budget schedule, the Board received the preliminary budget on January 1st, as required by NSB Ordinance. This is a preliminary budget only as we will not receive until next week an indication from the NSB of the local contribution .

In other good news, the audit presentation was held a few days after the December Board hearing and the District received a solid pass. This is a great indicator of the work done by Mr Niedermeyer and Ms Peterson and their team in stabilizing and aligning the fiscal operations of the district. It is also a good measure of our improving relationship with our key stakeholder the NSB.

In other very positive news, last December the District Administrators and Principals started a campaign to send Free and Reduced Price Meal Applications to all parents and carers from non CEP (community eligibility provision) schools. The district managed to collect all the applications before January. As a result we are very happy to announce that the district is now eligible for an 80% discount, up from 70% in the last couple of years. This should save us approximately \$600,000.00 in internet bills. Thank you to IT Director Santos for taking the lead on this initiative and thanks to all the home school facilitators and site staff who hustled to ensure our district gets the maximum discount on our internet services so more money can be directed to classrooms and students.

In CIP, the Design team will make a final scheduled village trip visit to Kaktovik, in early Feb., to present a 25% design concept for the school build back.

And finally, the new camera system is being installed at Trapper School and should be completed within the next 45 days, dependent on camera supply chain delivery

Conclusion:

Before closing I want to take a moment to recognize the loss of one of our staff and one of our parents this month. Mr Matthew Conlon joined our District this year and was an immediate success as a teacher, counselor and interim building administrator in Kaktovik. He had a singular focus on improving outcomes for our students and his kindness and good humor will be missed by all. Our thoughts and prayers also go out to the Kippi family and children who lost their father this past month in Atqasuk. A tragedy for their family and a great loss to the community of Atqasuk.

Although holidays made it yet another short month between Board meetings, I hope this Administrator Report again indicates the positive direction we are moving in. I want to once again thank all our community members, families and elders who provide their guidance and support to us. I want to thank our staff for their tireless work in first semester and in particular I want to thank our department Directors who continue to accept more and more onto their plates without complaint.

Systemic and educational reform is hard work. But we must model that rigorous work ethic daily for our students - as Susan Hope reminded me last week - learning new things when you've been disconnected from education is like breaking trail - it takes enormous perseverance, great

determination to work our how to get around or through those blockages on the trail, persistence and commitment. Thanks to our Board for supporting this direction we are moving in. We can do this. Atautchikun!

Highlighted Department:

Student Services - Lori Roth

1.0 Student Success

- The Student Services Department continues to meet with special education and school counselor subs to discuss individual and school-based needs.
- We would like to thank the students of Kaktovik for helping to select a long term school counselor. Vickie Heppel will be our long term sub in Kaktovik. Vickie met with the principal and some of the students. She played the guitar and got the thumbs up for her to come to Kaktovik. Everyone is very excited.
- We are very excited to have Debbie Mekiana return to Nunamiut School. Debbie worked at Nunamiut before and currently has an Inupiaq Language certificate in grades 7-12. Debbie has applied and will receive her Student Services certificate. The students and staff are very excited to have her return.
- Maggie and Lori have been collaborating to set up a District-wide Student Council. Maggie is working with the local student councils to design a poster to spread the excitement. Students who are interested will be asked to answer 2 questions and submit them to a committee for review. Maggie will share more information in her report.
- A work group is being formed to review and review the current Discipline Matrix. Member of the work group are:
 - Frieda Nageak, Board Member
 - John Riddle, Principal, Kaveolook School
 - Geron Brown, BHS Vice Principal
 - MJ Geiser, Asst. Superintendent
 - Lori Roth, Director Student Services
 - Jana Harcharek, Contractor Inupiaq Ed Department
 - Madeline Hickman, Board Member
 - Rod Lloyd, Teacher Meade River School
 - Lynette Heppa, School Counselor, Ipalook Elementary School
- NSBSD is working to develop social emotional standards for our students across the grades. Information will be taken from the ILF and other sources to help develop these standards. The work group is in the process of being formed. It will have village and Utqiagvik representation.

2.0 Community Engagement

- We are very thankful to Integrated Behavioral Health for trying to send 2 clinicians to Kaktovik to support our staff and students. They planned to be on-site January 10 & 11 to

provide support. Unfortunately, travel issues resulted in them canceling. Distance follow-up support will be provided.

- Arctic Slope Native Association hired Joshua Stein as their new Social Services Director. Josh worked at ASNA in the past. We look forward to our on-going collaboration with ASNA.

3.0 Staff Success

- Lori Roth and Jimmy Capps will be providing Utqiagvik paraprofessionals and home school facilitators Crisis Intervention Training on January 16, 2023. This training will provide strategies for building relationships, helping students work through their problems, and supporting students through difficult times.
- Alak School will be trained on January 18, 2023 by Lori Roth and Jimmy Capps.
- Kiita Learning Community completed their training on Dec 7, 2022 with Lori Roth and MJ Geiser.

4.0 Financial & Operational Stewardship

- School-wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (SW-PBIS) will be implemented for all school improvement sites and Title 1 sites. The second SW-PBIS meeting was held January 9 and was attended by all sites. The focus of our implementation will be school/community engagement and developing community-based expectations for our schools. An opportunity will be provided for select staff to attend the SW-PBIS conference in April, <https://pbisnetwork.org/conference/>. This is grant funded.

Department Reports

Curriculum & Instruction - Caitlin Santos

1.0 Student Success

- The State of Alaska has introduced sweeping legislation in support of early Literacy. As a district, we support this focus and are working on how current and future programs will maintain compliance with state regulation, while meeting the diverse and specific needs of our students. The two main components of the Alaska Reads Act that we are working on are an elementary reading curriculum adoption, and a new assessment platform for early literacy screening. Informational webinars are scheduled for the next three months to go over all of the details of the legislation.
 - We are presently in an adoption cycle for elementary reading materials, and have been piloting a program called “Into Reading.” By all accounts, our teachers appreciate the materials and find them a good fit to our students. As a part of the Reads Act, a small team of educators and CO leadership will be engaging with a state team to further dig into the materials, and plan training for next year. The State has also given the District funding in support of the purchase of these materials. As we move through the spring, and finalize the adoption decision, the Curriculum Department will have materials for display publicly and bring the materials to the board as per Policy.
 - The State of Alaska will be mandating the use of a literacy screener in grades K-3 beginning next year. The district has been using AIMSweb for more than 10 years,

and will likely be switching to mClass Amplify, which offers an easier gentler approach to both our staff and students. Our teacher will have a chance to test it out this spring, and we will be given multiple opportunities to provide feedback to the state. This will not add to the list of assessments that we currently administer, rather replace an existing assessment.

- More Information about the Alaska Reads Act can be found here: <https://education.alaska.gov/akreads>
- All student records from Semester 1 have been transcribed and stored. Classes for Semester 2, and schedules have been finalized at each building. C&I staff have been working diligently with principals and counselors to ensure that high school students have access to all courses needed for graduation.
- ECE literacy and instruction coordinator Lorrie Scoles has been in Nuiqsit supporting teachers in the elementary school.

3.0 Staff Success

- District-wide inservice is scheduled for January 16. Elementary teachers will receive training in the new assessment platform to potentially replace AIMSweb. Secondary teachers will have multiple choices of trainings in support of the district mission and vision.
- Over winter break, members from Curriculum & Instruction worked with the larger Instructional team on goal setting, strategy, and working towards reifying a district Pedagogy document.

Career Technical Education - Ronnie Hawley

This semester looks to be very exciting for the CTE and Qatqinniagvik programs. We are starting off this semester with a CTE teacher at Kali School and a new Wood Shop Teacher at Barrow High School. Once the school year has been completed, we will have delivered a form of CTE to each school in the district. This semester, the plan is to have another Qatqinniagvik Career Exploratory event on February 20th – 24th, allowing Meade River School, Harold Kaveolook School, and Nunimuit School to participate. Additionally, in May, students will have the opportunity to fly to Barrow and participate in a 1 week intensive at Ilisagvik college, where upon completion of the program, the students will have earned dual credit and industry certification. We are planning a career fair for Barrow high school and Kita in April, where students can meet and speak with businesses and industry about careers on the Slope.

Emergency Response Coordinator - Jimmy Capps

1.0 Student Success:

- The safety and success of our students is our number one priority.

2.0 Community Engagement:

- Completed the written Emergency Evacuation Plans for Kiita
- Completed the written Emergency Evacuation Plans for BHS
- Completed the written Emergency Evacuation Plans for HMS
- Completed the written Emergency Evacuation Plans for IPK

- Completed the written Emergency Evacuation Plans for KAK
- Completed the first draft of the NSBSD Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)
- Outlined and Introduced the Incident Command System for NSBSD in the EOP
- Developed a team of community members and stakeholders to assist me in what I am doing as the Emergency Response Coordinator for the NSBSD.
- We have been working hard to foster and build relationships with organizations like ASNA, SSMH, NSB Risk, NSB Emergency Management, NSB Fire Department, NSB Police Department, NSB Public Works Department, NSB Search and Rescue, ICAS, All SAC's, The City of Utqiagvik and All Villages of the NSB.

3.0 Staff Success:

- Faculty and Staff have been included in the development of the emergency evacuation plans for all 4 barrow schools and Kaktovik school. A current schedule has been established and communicated with the site principals for in-person evacuation and ALICE trainings over the next 3 months for the remaining 6 villages.
- Each emergency evacuation plan gives the staff the tools needed when dealing with an emergency evacuation.
- The EOP will give staff the tools needed for success when handling an emergency situation/incident.
- ALICE Active Shooter Training, eLearning for Staff has been scheduled for February during District Wide Inservice.

4.0 Financial & Operational Stewardship:

- Developing a comprehensive emergency operations plan (EOP) for the school district, will reduce financial liability on the school district if an emergency or violent critical incident occurs.

Maintenance & Operations - Steve Cropsey

4.0 Financial & Operational Stewardship

Welcome Ms. Bernadette Fischer as the newest member of the NSBSD Director group.

Ms. Fischer will assume her duties on Feb, 1, 2023. Steve will work a rotational shift to help Ms. Fischer transition into her new position until she tells Steve “You need only buy a one-way ticket out this time.” 😊 (*Great appointment decision by Superintendent Vadiveloo.*)

Harold Kaveolook School (KAK)

The Design team will make a final scheduled village trip visit to Kaktovik, in early Feb., to present a 25% design concept for the school build back. M&O is submitting a Project Request to the Project Review Committee for \$23,000,000 in February which, when funded by the NSB and when combined with the remaining insurance proceeds will amount to apx \$48,000,000 for the construction of Phase I of the rebuild. The rebuild will consist of a full gymnasium including an elevated running track a VOC Ed. Space and an M&O shop area. The contaminated soil

remediation and encapsulation plan is before the Alaska DEC for review and permitting. *NOTE: The Board of Education will have on it's agenda in March, consideration of official approval of the design.*

Trapper School (NUI)

The new camera system is being installed at Trapper School should be completed within the next 45 days, dependent on camera supply chain delivery

Districtwide (ATQ, AIN, PHO, PIZ, NUI, AKP)

This is a repeat of the status of DW Vehicles. CIPM is out to bid on the vehicles and they are being replaced and upgraded to SUVs and ¾ ton 4WD pickups. Some will be delivered over ice roads and some by barge.

RLC is going to serve to house dancers and others for the Kivigq celebration. Tomi Philip will serve again as the Liasson between the NSB and NSBSD as she has done very well in the past.

The District's Six-year Capital Improvement Plan is currently being written for 2024. The final plan will be submitted to the State of AK by Sept. 1, 2023, as required by State regulations. The process will be re-instituted including site visits at each site in order to develop an outline of the site's condition. School site SACs will again review the projects for each site and evaluate and prioritizing improvements for each site.

The first section of the FY 2024 plan includes rebuilding of Harold Kaveolook School as the plan priority.

Carry forward projects are also included and reported as funded from previous NSB Bond funds.

Information Technology – Reginald Santos

4.0 Financial & Operational Stewardship

- FY2022 E-Rate Category 1 and 2 Discount
 - Last December, the District Administrators and Principals started a campaign to send Free and Reduced Price Meal Applications to all the students parents from non CEP schools. The district managed to collect all the applications before January. We are happy to announce that the district is now eligible for an 80% discount, up from 70% last couple of years. We were able to save approximately \$600,000.00 in internet bills. Congratulations and a big thank you to everyone for all the work that was put into getting the surveys out and compiled.