

Student Representative Report
Trishelle Okpik
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Good Afternoon, my name is Trishelle Okpik and I am one of the 2 student representatives for the school board. I am a Junior who attends Barrow High school. The schools I will be reporting on are Eben Hopson Middle School, Nuiqsut Trapper School, Kaktovik's School, along with Anaktuvuk Pass's School. I also have 2 additional schools which are Point Hope and Point Lay. They will not be in this report.

I had sent out a survey to all of my 4 original schools, which I sent out on January 6th of 2021. So far to this day of February 2nd of 2021, only Eben Hopson Middle School and Nuiqsut has replied to me. After about 2 weeks I had one response, to then I requested Chelsie to send it. After a couple days I received about 24 more responses. As of today, I now have 44 responses. Some are from my schools and some are other schools who are not a part of my report. From what I understand from a teacher at my high school both him and a student filled it out. The report was not supposed to go to those schools. I requested that it would be sent to my 4 schools and to this day I do not know how many schools have completed it. From this survey I have seen my mistakes and I plan to make my survey next month much easier for me to figure out who is saying what and who is actually completing it.

I had asked 7 questions for both students and adults of the schools to complete. I had asked if this year has been hard due the Covid Virus being in our district. Out of 44 people 84% answered yes with the rest of the 16% answering no. **"Distance delivery is challenging with many student lacking internet capability."** **"the uncertainty of knowing what I will be doing each day has been stressful."** **"Wack Covid and no gym to relief stress..."** **"With just online classes, I don't feel the responsibility to do the work as much as I would when going to school. Interacting with other students encourages me to do my work. I tend to feel isolated from time to time and that makes it hard for me to concentrate."** Are all words of different people both adults and students.

Another question I had asked was "What has been the most challenging thing this year?". There were a lot of good replies, all differing from each other along with being the same. **"Feeling like our students have not been getting the support that they need to meet district guidelines of the kind of graduates we want."** **"The most challenging thing this year is trying to feel motivated to do my work. Of course I do my work, but it would be last minute or late. Even if I were to set a goal for myself, it's still difficult. Seeing other students do well makes me feel like I'm not doing enough and that reflects negatively for me. Don't get me wrong, I want to learn new things but it's hard to concentrate when I have self-doubt just repeatedly telling me that I can't do it."** **"Trying to keep students going strong, while also being careful not to introduce too many new concepts when they are out of the building."** **"Juggling all of the classes is the hardest thing by far, sometime during last semester I was given incredibly difficult assignments that left me without a single moment to breath and all of them were due by the end of one week."** Once again these are from both students and adults from the schools.

The last question I had asked was "What do you think will make this school year easier on your mental health?" to which the responses I had gotten were. **"What will make it easier? Well that's tough. If we can get folks vaccinated and get back to the proper business of teaching, that would be the best thing for all of us, but I don't know if I should hope for that or not. More realistically, I want to see the battle for free internet for all student homes waged fiercer. I know GCI is supposedly giving away 50GB to families, but GCI is**

notoriously difficult to deal with. I want all of my students to have access to all the resources they need so that they can make the most of this year.” “I think just something to help spread positivity could help, and going back to school physically could also make things a lot easier.” “It would be easier if the work was more spread out over the weeks instead of condensed into one single week; more time for assignments. Another thing that would help would be for summer break to start already.” “I can't think of any way. Maybe support and appreciation from the community and district.” “I think it might be being able to interact with other students in small groups in the cafeteria, but that would be difficult with the coronavirus. Maybe it would be a bit easier if teachers had schedules for when they would post a new assignment so that I can mentally prepare for it, but that would be more work for the teachers. I understand that the amount of work given is normal, but it feels overwhelming for me. Maybe if there were fewer assignments given at a time, then I would feel less overwhelmed. I doubt they would work, and I don't exactly know what would help me. I just don't want to let anyone down.”

A lot of responses from the students of our schools are stating that the amount of work is very stressful. As a student myself, I can agree with this. A lot of friends I know are stating the exact same thing. The amount of work while being away from school is very stressful and putting a lot of students in hard positions. The feeling of not wanting to disappoint anyone due to how great they are in school and the feeling of defeat when you cannot bring yourself to do the work.

While both the Eben Hopson Middle School's assistant principal and I have been having frequent conversations. We have set up zoom meetings and have sent many emails back and forth. With my survey we both decided that it would be easier on the students of Eben Hopson to have one question answered. The question was a mixture of the questions on the original survey I had sent out. There was 3 students who answered the survey. One of the questions were “What is the hardest thing about being you at this moment”. 2 of the students stated that it is hard not being able to see their friends. The other student said that “English is a bit frustrating for me, I'd prefer writing stories and such, but I believe that it will enhance my learning and writing abilities significantly.” The other question asked was “What is the best thing about being you at this moment”. The three same students answered this question. One stating “I am the president of the Hopson Middle School, and am enjoying fulfilling my duties. I also found out that I am going to state in Battle of the books, this was a great surprise for me, for, I was on a team all by myself, going against many other 3-4 person teams”. Another said that the best thing is finishing all of their work. The last person who replied to the survey stated that “actually learning new things and spending time with my family.”

For myself I believe that the hardest thing right now in my position is the lack on communication through the board. At the end of December I had asked for my two new school contact information to include them in this report of mine. Although I waited a month for that information. Something that I think that will help both me and Brooke would be better information. It is very common that we get 2-4 day replies after we have asked a question. Getting put in a place with better communication will help my reports be the best they can be. This month was a good month for both Hopson Middle School and Nuiqsut. I have not received much from either AKP or Koktovik. For March's report I will be doing another survey that is better worked out and sent to my schools.

Thank you so much for listening to my Febuary Report. Have a nice day!