

Administrative Report – October 2024

CSA / Superintendent David Vadiveloo

Utuqqanaavut kisuigukkitka – sivulliit utuqqanaallu, paṇmami utuqqanaagiravullu, utuqqanaaḡuḡumaaqtuallu. Qu yanaaḡitka paṇmamuraglaan aullatimmagit savaktivut ilīññaqtuagiravullu. Nalunaḡuṇmigiga sulī iṇuuniḡuutilaaqput savaguutilaaqpullu nunaḡiññi Iṇupiat. Igliqtitchirauvluta miṇuaqtuḡviṇṇik kamasuuttaḡigikput ikayuiyumiṇaaqpta tamatkunani nunani.

Members of the Board and community, another AFN and another Elders & Youth Conference has come and gone, our dancers have done our communities proud and ukiaviuraq is upon us. Thanks to the skills and knowledge of our whalers, the siḡluaqs and freezers are full and we're ready for winter. As always we pay our respects to the Elders that grounded, guided and maintained the rich cultural identity, values and vision of the community. As a community of educators we acknowledge Elders past, present and emerging for entrusting us as partners in the education and growth of their children.

Busses are running, buildings are operating, classes and programs are being delivered and all staff are focused on continuing to raise the growth and achievement of our students. Reform on the scale we are delivering is challenging and requires all hands on deck. But our students, families and staff are committed and the rewards of two years of rebuilding are now starting to be seen with test scores improving and literacy vendors contacting the district to ask what we are doing to explain the strong results of many of our students. So with that in mind I'd like to present to the Board and our community the following highlights by way of an update on District operations mapped against our new Strategic goals and objectives.

Domain: Family & Community Collaboration

Goal: Prioritize and implement intentional and purposeful partnerships.

HOUSING: the Board will receive an information item today about the housing opportunities for the NSBSD to improve our recruitment and retention and eventually relieve some pressure on local housing stocks in villages. The Superintendent and NSB Mayor Patkotak met with other NSB staff in Anchorage last week to inspect possible options for housing. This initiative is a strong reinforcement of the collaboration that is now happening on a regular basis with the NSB

BULLYING PREVENTION: As you've heard from Student Services Director, the TAVRA bullying prevention initiative is off to a strong start with village visits next on the agenda. This program requires partnership with multiple stakeholders including ASNA, NSB Health, Native Villages and cities and is demonstrative of this important issue being addressed by the whole community.

NUTRITION SERVICES: The recent efforts of the Administration to develop an MOA with ICAS have resulted in the first successful supply of subsistence foods from the ICAS hunters program to our schools. We are looking forward to seeing our students eating niqipiaq and to further examples of this important partnership strengthening the culturally grounded education our students deserve.

WHALING & SUBSISTENCE CURRICULUM: Throughout the recent whaling season it was great to see so many of our students and staff supporting this vital community activity. NSBSD staff including Principals attended whaling activities and this represents an important change in the focus and awareness of our district. As part of the important re-centering of Iṇupiaq culture in our curriculum, our Curriculum and Instruction and Iṇupiaq Education Departments are continuing

to support students who are interested in earning credits for their time on the ice, the ocean or nuna. This is a process that is truly student and community driven. NSBSD provide materials, guidance and offers a credit and we rely on the student to do the course work, supported by adults who can encourage the study side of the activity otherwise we are finding our students will be challenged.

QLC: Programs have commenced and this month while students were attending they were also participating in community service events, making tie-dye shirts with the NSB behavioral health department, having evening recreation at a nearby church, participating in drumming and dancing with the Barrow Dancers, and enjoying the successful agvik hunt thanks to the Patkotak Crew.

SAC elections and training: With the completion of this year's SAC elections the District has offered two rounds of training to all SAC members. We will offer one more round of training for newly appointed members and those who missed as we continue to offer support to local community members playing a vital advisory role for our District.

Domain: Culturally Responsive Instruction

Goal: All students perform at or above grade level

CKLA: This past month we received a terrific endorsement when we were contacted by the vendor that oversees our K-5 literacy curriculum to ask us what we were doing to return such strong results for our students this year. This is an exciting piece of feedback and important recognition of the work that has been done by our C&I department, our teachers and most importantly our students in the area of literacy.

INTERVENTIONS: Testing from the start of the year is being analyzed. Students in grades 1-3 who are scoring below benchmark will be entered into interventions, and this will be communicated home to families as part of our MTSS process. Students needing interventions in all other grades will also be provided interventions per our MTSS plan,

REPORT CARDS: A new report card format has been introduced for K-4 that will provide parents with better details about their students progression. The new Reports include a language progression specific section, new achievement level descriptors, and standards-based items also.

Goal: All students are prepared for their pathway of choice post-high school

QLC: Thirty-three students from all seven outlying villages as well as Kiita Learning Community and Barrow High School participated in intensive offerings of: Heavy Equipment, Skin Sewing, Video Production and Teen Sports Nutrition. Students were reminded and encouraged to include this experience in their Tumitchiat Sivunmun Plans when they return to their home site. Like our students, this program is growing stronger by the day and we're excited to see the next phase of programs and developments.

TUMITCHIAT SIVUNMUN PLANS: TS Plans for students in grades 9-12 are being reviewed by Principals and consultation is occurring with students. Phone scripts and conference guidelines have been shared out to staff to assist in meaningful conversation with parents, and getting to know students. Feedback will be discussed at the Principal retreat this weekend. Like the immersion program last year, the TS plans will redefine how we engage with our students and their families, offering a single consistent pathways document for them from k-12.

Goal: Graduate bilingual students

IMMERSION: The k3/4 and Kindergarten Uqautiluja Iñupiatun Immersion classes continue to thrive with students focused on whaling activities, niġrutit and song and dance. Administratively we are mapping out Iñupiaq literacy strategies, screeners, and assessments. As well as consulting with other Iñupiaq language experts to ensure the sustainability of the program through a mentor-apprentice program focusing on increased fluency.

The new IVALU App has been uploaded to all student ipads for use and the website is now live. IED have been working with Ilisaurrit on navigating the new system with students to ensure maximum exposure to the features of the new program.

Domain: Student Social & Emotional Wellbeing

Goal: Facilitate & maintain culturally, emotionally, & physically safe learning environments

STUDENT SERVICES: As you heard during the highlighted report, bullying prevention, counseling supports and challenging staff shortages are keeping the Student Services department very busy. This is an area of targeted concern for the administration as we look at ways of increasing staffing into SPED positions to support our students.

ELDERS AND YOUTH: Another successful trip for students attending Elders and Youth with BHS's student council member Jayden Lampe presenting a resolution with Elder Elsie Itta on the critical importance of language.

BUILDING SECURITY: The new entry funnel and door alarms have been installed at Tikiġaq school as have the new vape detectors. Installation for all other sites is now scheduled and will take place throughout the year and we will continue to work with SACs to explain the purpose of the new security. Upgrades to all camera systems, all PA and clock systems is also now out to bid for replacement and the issues with the Ulġuniġ Aġak School PA system have been addressed.

Staff Support & Professional Development

Goal : Build and sustain a thriving workforce aligned with the mission of this District

MODEL CLASSROOM: One year ahead of schedule we're pleased to announce that we have our first model classroom up and running in 4th grade at Ipalook Elementary in Utġiaġvik. This pilot classroom will see Curriculum and Instruction coordinator coach Ms Aeriale Johnson teaching for the rest of the year. A Model Classroom allows for the recording of lessons delivered by an exemplary Master teacher. These recordings are then made available for staff to view as part of their professional development plan, with teachers also able to visit the class at specific times to see exemplary teaching in action. As we develop a pool of Master culturally responsive teachers it will be our goal to have a model classroom at every site.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Another successful District wide in-service was held yesterday with staff receiving professional training on culturally responsive instruction from Ed Northwest and school and classroom behavioral management training from highly regarded facilitator Tricia Skyles. We've also resumed use of the Vector LMS platform, to support compliance training, including personal boundaries, anti-harassment, and sexual harassment modules. This will also assist with new hire onboarding and accountability paperwork.

All Plant Managers will be attending classes at their sites delivered by Ilisaġvik, focusing on Hazardous materials, Environmental Issues, and Tank (fuel, glycol, oil) training. NSBSD is partnering with the NSB Environmental Department on these training and EPA matters.

RECRUITING: A comprehensive recruitment campaign is being developed, leveraging social media and reaching out to recruitment agencies across the U.S. and Canada. The campaign also aims to identify educators from Canada and Greenland who have Inupiaq or Inuit cultural knowledge and/or language skills.

Financial & Operational Stewardship

Goal 7: Standardize high-functioning, efficient, student-focused operations

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES: The Business Office staff are working on Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) that align with the District's current processes. SOPs are currently being developed for Fundraising, Cash handling, and Credit Card & Cash Apps. These SOPs will further enhance the accountability and transparency that has been implemented to date regarding how funds are collected, stored and spent.

CASHLESS POINT OF SALE: A credit card and virtual payment application called Clover will be set up in the coming weeks at all sites to remove excessive cash handling and bring further accountability to our operations.

10 YEAR PLAN and CIPM: Based on the recent RSA audit of facilities, M&O are presenting to the Board today a 10 year plan for CIPM which will provide the certainty and predictability that has been missing for many years. In other CIPM updates, Alak school and HMS bleachers have been delivered and will be installed shortly, new video surveillance and sound systems have been installed at several sites, and the new boilers for Nuiqsut have finally arrived and are ready for install.

CIPM have also been working closely with our IT department to secure new core servers for the District. This critical infrastructure will support and allow upgrades to systems like Tyler, Cisco, SSO, Directory authentication and many other programs that are crucial to the financial and other management of the District.

IT UPGRADES: Our much celebrated RUS grant funds are being realized through upgrades and replacement to audio/video systems at Tikiġaq, Ulugniq, Hopson Middle School and Barrow High School. An application to upgrade all other sites will be submitted this year.

Activities

Our students continue to be busy inside and outside the classroom. Battle of the books is back and lego robotics is well underway.

The North Slope Regional 1A Cross Country Championship was held in Utqiagvik. Congratulations to Jennifer Nash of Tikiġaq and Justus Mulcahy of Nunamiut who took home individual championships. Great work by the Tikiġaq Girls and the Nunamiut Boys who won the first ever team awards for our Conference! And Nunamiut combined athletics with running by winning the Academic Awards.

The Big West 3A Conference was hosted by BHS in Utqiagvik with 4 schools participating. After a great two day of races for our village students and out of town teams, BHS qualified 2 runners Dana Olemaun and Flossie Olemaun, that represented NSBSD at the ASAA State Championships.

The following 16 runners represented NSBSD at the ASAA State Championships: Jennifer Nash, Haley Oktollik-Nashookpuk, Kyanne Everett, Eileen Panigeo, Makena Ivanoff, Lovlee Henry, Stacy Oktollik, Justus Mulcahy, Jamal Hart, Alexander Galloso, Xavier Sheldon, Henry Nashookpuk, George Bifelt, Henry Bodfish, Dana Olemaun and Flossie Olemaun. Everyone ran extremely well and Jennifer Nash was our top finisher at 18th.

October 2024

Mixed-6 Volleyball has begun with all 7 village teams participating. Kali is excited to host the regional tournament in Pt. Lay on November 21-22.

Whalers wrestling have begun their season with over 20 wrestlers this year and are on the road this weekend for their first tournament of the season. BHS will host the annual Bob Harcharek Invitational on November 8-9 with 4 schools attending.

BHS football finished the regular season with a 5-2 overall record and a 5-0 conference record. The Whalers captured the Mid-Alaska Conference Championship and hosted the State Semi-Final but fell short against Homer. Three seniors, Norm Lionaiava, Brewster Fields, and Gabe Ortila have been selected to play in the Senior Shiners All-Star game on November 2nd at the Dome in Anchorage.

And in very exciting news, BHS will host an all-schools NYO meet on January 10-12. We are excited about partnering with the not-for-profit Alaska Eskimo Traditional Games and developing our NYO program across the district, with new equipment and added events this school year!

In Summary

To all our staff - directors, departments, custodians, transportation, food services, to our families, community leaders, and students – all to all those who collaborate with us to bring a better and brighter educational experience to all our students, every day – Quyanapqak! To our Board thank you for continuing to provide clear guidance and support to achieve the Mission you have set out so clearly for our District. We are always stronger together and as a District we are proud to work for you and walk beside you and your children every day to help make the future better for all.