

**Chief School Administrator / Superintendent David Vadiveloo**

Utuqqanaavut kisuigukkitka – sivulliit utuqqanaallu, panmami utuqqanaagiravullu, utuqqanaagugumaaqtuallu. Qu yanaagitka panmamuraglaan aullatimmagit savaktivut ilinñiaqtuagiravullu. Nalunaigunmigiga suli iñuuniaguutilaaqput savaguutilaaqpullu nunajinñi Iñupiat. Igliqtitchirauvluta minuaqtugvinñik kamasuuttaḡigikput ikayuiyumiñaqapta tamatkunani nunani.

Members of the Board and members of the North Slope community, Quvianaḡli Ukiutchiaq!

As we enter a new calendar year and the days become longer, we start this Board Report by recognizing the Elders that have guided this District's path, and as an administration we re-state how honored we are to work and live on the self-determined sovereign lands of the Iñupiaq people. We pay our respects to Elders on the Board and all Elders, past, present and emerging. And we thank the community for entrusting us as partners in the education and growth of their children.

In December we had a successful strategic board retreat where we discussed and analyzed our District results and the commitments we must make to our students to ensure their success. Every child, Every day, Every class, Every hour - we must be vigilant in attending to raised expectations and greater levels of support and partnership with our families.

This month we have seen many student successes and staff successes and we are energized after the break to double down on our efforts to meet the instructional needs of our students and nurture their growth and development.

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 Strategic goals and objectives.

**Strategic goal 1: Student success**

*Pedagogy Domains: Culturally Responsive Instruction, Family & Community Collaboration, Authentic assessment of the whole child*

As mentioned, in December the Board met for their Strategic Retreat and at the meeting the administration presented detailed information about the academic and social and emotional status of our students. Emerging from that meeting the Board provided the administration with unequivocal support to expand the recent literacy and other academic interventions that we have been piloting at two sites. In response we have already posted a new Coordinator of Literacy Intervention services for the District and we are seeking to recruit a further 10 new specialist interventionists to support our students and teachers in this semester and through FY25.

As you heard in our highlighted Department report, the Curriculum and Instruction team continue their huge task of transcript audits, data dashboard and scope and sequence development to ensure our students have clear pathways to graduation using curriculum that is both relevant and connected to our core curriculum.

November and December saw Lego Robotics teams in action across the slope. Teams from Aḡak, Nuiqsut, Tikiḡaq, Harold Kaveolook, Nunamiut, and Atqasuk then came to Qatqinñiaḡvik for their regional competition at HMS with the home team HMS winning the competition. Thirty-seven students at Nunamiut school were involved in welding programs on-site with 9 student (including Middle Schoolers) passing their NCCER test that will put them on a path to a welding certification. Aḡak school hosted a sports nutrition program in December and Harold Kaveolook school held a weeklong culinary program that culminated with students cooking for and serving approximately 150 people.

The VIVA App that has been used successfully by so many of our students to connect with their Iñupiaq language is just a few weeks away from being re-launched as IVALU. *Ivalu* – which means sinew – is the image that represents language in the Iñupiaq Learning Framework and is an acronym for Iñupiaq Vocabulary and Assessment Learning Units. The most important part of this update will be the data collection and assessment aspects of the new app. This will allow more detailed reports that will help us showcase student's progression in the language and mastery of various units, and this will be a substantial enhancement to the program because it will directly align with our language program scope & sequence. This relaunch coincides with our Board advising the Administration that the Iñupiaq language should be present in all grade levels, as a

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compulsory subject, from FY25. This will align our district with its mission to produce bi-lingual graduates and affirm our commitment to language learning for every student in every grade level.

Aḷak and Kali schools received student services site visits this past month with Tikiḡaq cancelled due to weather. Our District continues to re-focus attention on the behavioral expectations in our buildings and collaborative planning with parents.

Congratulations to all our wrestlers, mix-6 volleyballers and basketballers across the slope who have battled weather and cancellations to turn up and compete. BHS and Tikiḡaq have already played in a number of tournaments in December. A number of our 1A Basketball teams will be in Utqiḡvik on January 12th & 13th for the Ayuktaqta(Let's Play Ball) Basketball Tournament.

Finally, a huge shout out to Nunamiut mix-6 team who triumphed in the regional final in Atqasuk and went on to finish 4<sup>th</sup> in the State championship in Palmer. And a very special congratulations to BHS senior Manusui Muti who won her 2nd State Title in a row and BHS Senior Uata Tuifua who won his 3rd State Title in a row in Anchorage.

### **Strategic goal 2: Community engagement**

Pedagogy Domains: Culturally Responsive Instruction, Family & Community Collaboration

The District administration have been very pleased with the communication and collaboration already occurring with the new NSB administration. This was best illustrated on December 15 when the community of Tikiḡaq experienced an electrical outage that resulted in 37 people needing shelter in the school. For the next week as the issue was addressed there was exceptional collaboration between NSB administration and NSBSD staff and admin and we thank our staff on-site and the NSB for their openness and efficiency in dealing with a very difficult and potentially life-threatening outage.

Further to that theme, we are in the final stages of negotiating a new agreement to support the NSB Health Department with accommodations in the Qatqiñḡiḡvik facility. This will support vital health staffing for services across the slope and in return our Qatqiñḡiḡvik students and students in all village schools will receive critical voc-ed training and support in Health and allied services.

We have also finalized an MOA with the Native Village of Barrow for their new Wellness Court. In cooperation with the NVB and NSB the district will support NVB as they seek to restore this important alternative court and behavioral piece into the justice system.

The Board heard earlier in the work session from Arctic Slope Community Foundation about their proposed Apprenticeship program. The District hopes this partnership will enhance the work we've been doing with Iḷisaḡvik College and the University of Alaska Fairbanks to support our first cohort of teacher trainees in the spring semester to get them on track for progressing toward teacher certification.

Finally, through the hard work and dedication of the M&O team, with special thanks to Tomi Philip who is our 'point person', we hosted another successful Christmas Games in Utqiḡvik – this year at BHS. And we send a special thanks to ASRC for again committing their donation of \$25,000 for security costs at Christmas events across all villages.

### **Strategic goal 3: Staff success**

Pedagogy domain: Staff Support & Professional Development

Ads for our Iḷisaurriḡuqta program have been posted on the website and will be part of an ongoing push to recruit and train local teachers. Recruiting season is upon us and as the Board see on the agenda we have the FY25 renewals for board approval.

Stability has been a key for this administration and we thank community members who have taken the time to focus upon that. After the chaos of years past and the teacher shortages that were inherited from 2021

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and 2022, we have had almost full employment of teachers at the District for first semester. Where vacancies have arisen our HR team have worked diligently to find replacements and we are optimistic about heading into the new recruiting season.

The upcoming District Wide in-service will focus our staff on the targeted trajectory of our District towards stronger parent partnerships, higher expectations and culturally responsive instruction. Academic and instructional Interventions will remain a core focus for the District for the foreseeable future as we actively seek to address learning loss and outcomes for our students. C&I and the Iñupiaq Education Department both have active site visit calendars to support staff.

And finally, Mr. Cunningham, Emergency Services Coordinator has completed all of the school site Evacuation Plans and submitted them to the Central Office and site Principals. The Principals have all agreed with the plans and are preparing to put them on the various SAC Agendas. In addition, annula crisis response training is currently being scheduled for all sites and staff across the district.

#### **Strategic goal 4: Financial and operational Stewardship**

Pedagogy Domain: Financial & Operational Stewardship

On January 1, pursuant to ordinance, the Business office delivered a draft preliminary budget to the Board. That document will be presented today for discussion. The Business office also continues to make rolling alignments of the Districts financial operations with policy and guidelines and is supporting the HR Department to standardize many of it's systems and processes to create organizational congruence. We are also doing a comprehensive review of grants to ensure we maximize grant spending and impact.

The District has successfully retained an 80% discount under the E-Rate program for the fiscal year 2024/2025. This success can be attributed to the collaborative efforts of our food services team, school Principals, and our wonderful home school facilitators. Their proactive approach in encouraging parents to submit their free and reduced meal applications has resulted in a projected saving of over \$500,000 on internet bills for the District.

Upgrades are occurring district wide on PA systems and bell systems and IT infrastructure is being upgraded to protect our tech infrastructure.

In M&O there is the usual hum of activity. IPK lift station was rebuilt over Christmas, approval was received to assess the Alak school heating/cooling system, drawings are underway for the Atqasuk playground and an LOI has been prepared to seek a further \$5M for the Kaveolook School rebuild. In response to the SERRC Asbestos inspection a Local Education Agency (LEA) designated person has been invited to assume responsibilities and we are waiting for confirmation

#### **Conclusion:**

Every child, Every day, Every class, Every hour. This was part of our discussion during our Strategic retreat. There is rigor required to get us to a standard of education that the parents of this community are seeking for their children. And it relies upon partnerships between parents and the district, stakeholders and funders. We must parents and families and guardians working with our teachers and support staff to raise the bar of expectation for outcomes. The Tumitchiat Sivunmun plans will offer the platform for that relationship and are an exciting next step as we start to use and rollout these plans for FY25.

As I mentioned in the previous board meeting and will no doubt be saying in the months ahead – this will be challenging work. But anything worth doing requires focus and persistence and hard work. We must maintain our focus on attendance, attendance, attendance and quality tier one instruction. In closing I want to sincerely thank the Board for providing us with a laser sharp focus under our emerging new strategic plan. I also want to thank our staff for their dedication during these challenging winter months where there is always more to do, more to grow and more the gain for students. And I want to thank students, parents and community partners for continuing to support us as we move our district in a positive direction. Quyanapqak and Atautchimukta!