

Meade River School
North Slope Borough School District
Phone: 907-633-5800
Atqasuk, Alaska 99791



NORTH SLOPE
BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
— Striving For Excellence —

Good morning from Meade River School SAC.

We have been busy working with our community and school to make our school the very best it can be.

Here are a few of our highlights.

We have been very fortunate to have Jessica Itta join our School Advisory Council. She adds a valuable voice to our meetings. She is a community member, a business owner and the mother to several of our students. We feel blessed that she was willing to fill an empty seat.

We have brought back the student representative to our meetings. We have three high school students, Ronald Kippi, Frances Itta and Rilei Anne Kingik, that take turns attending our meetings and have given many insights to the issues we discuss. We value their opinions and enjoy their perspective as we discuss issues that affect them. This is a practice that we will continue to pursue as it gets to the heart of what we want for the children of our community.

Another area that enhances our goals for our school is to highlight the cultural education in our school. This used to be a single bullet in our principal report, but is now its own agenda item. Ethel Burke, our Inupiat Language and Culture teacher updates us as well as teachers that attend our meetings. We feel that highlighting this aspect of our students' education gives an importance to making Meade River School a true community school. We are updated on the Units being taught as well as discuss future plans.

Two of the cultural areas that we have asked to be included in the 2023-2024 school year is a revitalization of a High School Hunting trip in the fall and spring. We are also working with Principal Schaffer to create a winter Camp similar to our annual Classroom on the Nuna that occurs the first week of school.

The 1A Regional Basketball tournament was held in Atqasuk this year. This is a huge undertaking that took much discussion and planning. It truly takes a village to put on an event of this magnitude. We over doubled our student population. The event was well attended and we would like to thank all the staff and volunteers that helped to make this a huge success.

One of the key topics that the MRS SAC has been concerned and working to improve is attendance. We know that having students come to school every day is paramount to their educational success. We have had

SEAT 1

Rodney Lloyd

President

633-0033

rodney.lloyd@nsbsd.org

EXP - 10/24

SEAT 2

Wanda Kippi

Vice President

EXP - 10/23

633-6226

SEAT 3

Jessica Itta

Member

907-633-6928

lynn_jess23@hotmail.com

EXP - 10/24(23)

SEAT 4

Jennie Kippi

Secretary

633-6129

Jennie.Kippi@north-slope.org

EXP – 10/23

SEAT 5

Molly Ahkivgak

Member

633-1522

molly.ahkivgak2@north-slope.org

EXP-10/24

several deep discussions on this matter and visited with community members to try to find ways we can help to enhance student attendance. Our superintendent visited our school and it was reported that as a district, we are working towards a minimum 80% attendance goal. We are planning the first SAC meeting of the new school year in August to have a community feed sponsored by our SAC and have a deeper discussion with community members (one SAC member per group of tables) as to how we can help get the message of the importance of attendance. This will be an overarching highlighted discussion topic for all of our 2023-2024 school year.

We had many community comments and concerns voiced either in the meeting or to an individual SAC member about different aspects of our school. We have worked with our principal to help find solutions or answer questions and put plans into effect to help troubling areas. We are very pleased that the community is coming forth with questions or concerns. This sharing of ideas and issues shows us that our community cares deeply about our children's education and help to create an open dialoge to work together to make our school great.

Our greatest success for our SAC has been several groups of students have come to our meeting to ask for help or to find solutions to issues that concern them. Our middle school students have attended several meetings to ask for support to increase their opportunities for athletics. Both times, students spoke up about their wants and spoke up about how they felt. We were proud to help them be successful and helped to find opportunities for them to participate in athletics. We are most proud that they have found their voice and use it to work towards their goal. They did not just complain, the put together great presentations and had a positive goal in view. We hope to see this trend increase as our students learn to speak up for themselves. We are proud to see future leaders stand up and use their voice in positive ways to help their educational programs.

One area of concern that we have discussed and see a great need is hiring full time teachers for each of our classrooms. We are grateful the long-term substitutes that have helped to place experienced teachers in each of our classrooms, but we have had several classrooms with multiple teachers during this school year. We are updated each meeting by the principal but it seems as though it may be the same next year. We would like to applaud the efforts of the HR department for their work in recruiting, but we would like to let the board know that we are concerned and will support anything that will help to fill our school with full time teachers.

The Meade River School SAC would like to thank the NSBSD School Board for their support and willingness to listen to our community concerns. We will continue to work to make a stronger connection between our school and our community. We truly feel we have the best children in the world in our community and will continue to work hard to make sure their educational experience is both enjoyable but meaningful to their future lives. Thank you.