

Department Reports

Curriculum & Instruction - Caitlin Santos

Strategic goal 1: Student success

Pedagogy Domains: Culturally Responsive Instruction, Family & Community Collaboration

Over the summer, the Curriculum & Instruction department received CKLA materials for the Kindergarten through grade 5 reading pilot. Due to the timeline, all materials were received in Utqiagvik, then repackaged and sent out to site once staff were in the building to receive them.

The materials were purchased with funding from the State of Alaska and the Alaska Reads Act. They are aligned with the Science of Reading and have a much stronger focus on foundational skills such as phonics and phonemic awareness. They also have a stronger writing component. After a preliminary assessment, we removed several units of study that were not a good fit, and will supplement with text sets and culture-based units. This information, including documentation and a timeline will be distributed to teachers and building admin. A full training will be provided Aug 10 as part of our first District Inservice.

Strategic goal 2: Community engagement

Pedagogy Domains: Culturally Responsive Instruction, Family & Community Collaboration

The C&I staff helped in welcoming new teachers from the Philippines with community potluck. This event was held shortly after the teachers arrived and was a great way to introduce the new staff to the community.

One of the main shifts due to the Alaska Reads Act is an increase in parent communication when students are identified with a reading deficiency. Parent phone calls and letters will begin happening after the first assessment period in September and will continue throughout the year.

Strategic goal 3: Staff success

Pedagogy domain: Staff Support & Professional Development

Principal and New Teacher inservice were held July 24 through August 4. Our focus this year was to not only introduce the Pedagogy to new staff, but to provide written documentation in support of all instructional initiatives. This was done through the creation and dissemination of Curriculum Guides. The Guides are targeted by grade band; Elementary, Middle School, and High School and include pertinent information, policies and procedures, adopted curricular materials, the RTI/MTSS process and much more. The guides were a large undertaking for us over the past year, and were well received by teachers and principals.

We are presently working with the State of Alaska Dept of Education and Early Learning to determine the impact and potential work-arounds for the fall assessment window. Due to the fiber cut, our main assessment tools may not work at their normal level - tech wise. Once we have a solution, we will ensure that training is provided on any new protocols and work with the IT department to prioritize internet traffic for students needing assessment.

Iñupiat Education - Tennessee Judkins

Strategic goal 1: Student success

Pedagogy Domains: Culturally Responsive Instruction, Family & Community Collaboration

The Iñupiaq Education Department has been working with the VIVA computer programmers through the phases of the upgrades to the computer software. This will enhance the overall program, update the computer language so that it's up to date with technology and not tied to old computer language software, and will provide our department the opportunity to add/modify VIVA units on our end. With this upgrade, we will also be able to use the program on desktops and mobile devices and VIVA will be getting an all new facelift and rebrand.

Our staff worked on conducting inventory and labeling books from the large order of culturally relevant books to support culture-based curriculum. Our plan is to work with the District Librarian, Erin Hollingsworth, to catalog all of the books too so that we have a second layer of inventory. We will also use these books to support future unit development as we identify areas of need for more culture-based units as well as supplementing text for the CKLA K-3 curriculum.

Strategic goal 2: Community engagement

Pedagogy Domains: Culturally Responsive Instruction, Family & Community Collaboration

We continue to work with our elders and language experts through various initiatives and needs from our department. One major one has been the re-start up of the Uqautiluna Iñupiatun, the Iñupiaq Language Immersion program. We have had consistent support from Elsie Itta and Martha Stackhouse in supporting and guiding us through the program, and we are forever grateful for their continued support and assistance.

With the addition of our Secretary I, Kellen Rexford, she has been great in bringing in her community connections. Through the new hire inservices, we focused on part of the inservice on the nuna, and Kellen asked her husband, Steven Rexford II, to come support us as a bear guard while we were out at pigniq. He works at ICAS as a Hunting Coordinator and was kind enough to support us while we took new staff out to pigniq. We look forward to our continued connection with ICAS and their hunter/gatherers program, and leaning on our community connections.

Strategic goal 3: Staff success

Pedagogy domain: Staff Support & Professional Development

We have added two new staff to our department: Kellen (Snow) Rexford and Kelsey Gordon. Kellen Rexford is our new Secretary I and Kelsey is our new Unit Implementation and Instructional Specialist. We are extremely happy to have them join our team and they have hit the ground running in supporting our department.

Our department has been working on enhancing various components of the Iñupiat Language Program. Some of those components include dividing the ASLA skillset #5A unit into two separate units in VIVA. The purpose of this was to introduce language regarding food to the vocabulary earlier in the progression of language. We reorganized the sentences for the object placement activity based on the discussion we had with the ilisaurrit language gathering we had with them in May. With these changes, we were able to work on and complete the activity cards for the object placement activity in the North Slope coastal dialect – we are actively working on the Tikigaaq and Nunamiut dialects as well. After attending the Accelerated Second Language Acquisition training with Dr. Greymorning in May, we identified the need for creating resources to support ilisaurrit with implementation of the ASLA skillsets, so we create keynote slides with

all of the images that they can use with students rather than printing the photos and placing them on the limited wall space.

Our department also worked to support the “new-to-country” teachers and prepare for the new hire in-service and the principal’s in-service. We put together a bundle of local books for the “new-to-country” teachers so that they had local resources for themselves, but also to add to their classroom libraries. Our staff worked in collaboration with the instructional team to support the new hire in-service agenda, which included facilitating breakout sessions, supporting culturally responsive practices and cultural/local contexts, and other various supports to get teachers and principals prepared and ready for the new year.

Student Services - Lori Roth

Strategic goal 1: Student success

Pedagogy domains: Student Social & Emotional Well-Being

The Student Services Office has been busy establishing programs to support the Social Emotional & Emotional Well-Being for students and staff. We rolled out NSBSD’s first Wellness Program for Teachers during the New Hire In-service. This voluntary program, based on the 8 domains of wellness from SAMSHA, will be extended district-wide to support all our staff. To learn more about the 8 domains please go to: https://mfpsc.samhsa.gov/ENewsArticles/Article12b_2017.aspx

We would like to thank the staff from IBH and ASNA for meeting with our new school counselors/social workers during New Hire In-service. Both agencies shared the services they provide and how we can collaborate. Both agencies discussed services they can provide and ways we can collaborate. According to Integrated Behavioral Health (IBH), they increased their staff and updated their FY24 referral packet. The Arctic Slope Native Association (ASNA) is currently traveling to our villages providing support through their prevention program. At present, ASNA is doing “grief” groups in Nuiqsut Trapper and Atqasuk. The groups and topics will increase based on request and staff availability. NSBSD will have school counselors available to support parents to complete a referral for services, if needed.

NSBSD is in the process of developing an MOA with the Arctic Slope Native Association and Maniilaq Corporation for prevention and mental health services.

Strategic goal 2: Community engagement

Pedagogy domains: Family & Community Collaboration

The Student Services Department supported 2 Extended School Year programs this fall. One program was held at Ipalook Elementary School and one was held in Tikigaq School. A big thanks to all staff and parents who participated and supported our special needs students.

The school counselors/social workers will collaborate with ASNA to support students who may be struggling with recent losses within our local community. The ASNA prevention program staff will be available at Barrow High School, Hopson Middle School, and as needed for Ipalook Elementary and Kiita Learning Community for up to 4 days when school begins. Available supports include expressing themselves through art, social emotional support, and relationship building activities. If any student or family is in need of additional mental health services, staff can support parents with a referral to Integrated Behavioral Health.

Strategic goal 3: Staff success:

Pedagogy Domain: Staff Support & Professional Development

The Student Services Office has been busy establishing programs to support the Staff Support & Professional Development domain. We rolled out NSBSD's first Wellness for Teachers Program during the New Hire In-service. The training in wellness was given positive responses from the new and returning staff that were present. Based on their feedback, the voluntary program will be extended district-wide to support all our staff.

Student Services would like to welcome Robbin Perkins-Askew to our department. Robbin was a special education teacher on Slope and came to us from Meade River School. Robbin will be providing support to all our SPED teachers in her new role as our SPED coordinator.

As we prepared for the 23-24 school year, Robbin Perkins-Askew, MattieJo Ahgeak, and Sharene Ahmaogak have been instrumental in helping develop our on-line electronic Special Education Binder. It has been wonderful to have a Team upgrade our processes, establish training, and support our new, and returning staff. All three supported the work to develop training materials for our very successful new SPED and school counselor/ social worker training. In a follow-up survey sent to all new SPED staff, unanimous thanks was given for the additional special education training day.

The Student Services Department supported 2 Extended School Year programs this fall. One program was held at Ipalook Elementary School and one was held in Tikigaaq School. A big thanks to all staff who participated and supported our special needs students.

NSBSD currently has 5 sites participating in School Improvement Grants with the State of Alaska. Principals from Tikigaaq School, Nuiqsut Trapper School, and Alak School will be attending a training on September 11 & 12, 2023 to learn about the school improvement process for school improvement. Information on the school improvement process supported by the Department of Education can be found at <https://education.alaska.gov/SchoolRecognition/SchoolImprovementProcess>

Qatqiññaġvik / Career & Technical Education - MJ Geiser

Strategic goal 1: Student success

Pedagogy Domains: Culturally Responsive Instruction, Family & Community Collaboration

In late June, the Qatqiññaġvik FY23 Report was completed. It is good to see the number of students who are participating in Career & Technical Education. As the report was being pulled together, notes were made regarding areas we can improve data collection to provide more complete information to our School Board, the NSB Mayor & Assembly, and to our communities.

In the month of June, there were 5 students who participated in the Alaska EXCEL programs. Two were 2023 graduates who participated in the EXCEL Capstone/Internship program, and three returning students participated in the Summer XL Camp & Drivers School. As students returned to their villages, they overnighted in the Qatqiññaġvik dorm rooms.

Strategic goal 2: Community engagement

Pedagogy Domains: Culturally Responsive Instruction, Family & Community Collaboration

In June, we had a Qatqiññaġvik work group meeting through the Nunaaqqiurat Tumitchianġit.

At this point, we are continuing to plan courses based on the last student survey. A new survey has been created and will be sent out the first week of school. Courses already planned for this year include NCCER CORE, Hydroponics Culinary, Nutrition, and Small Business. We are working with the Inupiat Education Department to plan language/culture intensives for middle school and high school students.

A great conversation took place with one of our village mayors. He stressed the concern that we have heard from many members of our communities as the Nunaaqqiurat Tumitchianġit: our students are not prepared for work. Listening to his concerns in detail demonstrates that we need to continue to listen and to get the communication out to our communities and not keep it in-house or only within the Nunaaqqiurat Tumitchianġit. This is an opportunity for growth for us. This also demonstrates the importance of listening to our communities.

Through the support of the Mayor's Employee Training Program, we have gained a dedicated young man to train in the position of maintenance - custodial. We are appreciative of the Mayor's office for providing this program to our community.

Strategic goal 3: Staff success

Pedagogy domain: Staff Support & Professional Development

July 3rd was the new Manager of CTE's first work day with us. Kent Mingneau comes to us from the CTE program in the South West Region School District. Prior to his official start date, Kent was busy building his to-do list so he could hit the ground running; and running he did. His boundless energy and excitement for everything CTE will be priceless as we grow the Qatqiññaġvik program.

To assist in preparing the documentation and processes for Qatqiññaġvik, a temporary secretary was hired. Following the hiring processes, Tammy Mingneau was hired and has done a terrific job, not only with the documents, but also with cleaning and preparing the Qatqiññaġvik rooms for our new hire in-service.

July 24th was the first day we had a temporary maintenance 1 employee. Paea Taufu has been a great help in keeping our facility clean during in-service and with cleaning the rooms after our new teachers departed to their sites. Paea has also been inventorying the Paxton Patterson kits in preparation for sending them out to our schools.

We have hired two CTE Instructors under 45-day contracts for Nuiqsut Trapper School and Nunamiut School. Both Instructors will be teaching during the 1st quarter. We have also reached out to the trade unions in Fairbanks and Anchorage and are forming relationships with their organizations in an effort to gain a variety of trades instructors for our students.

During the Principals' In-service in July we provided training on the Qatqiññaġvik program with an overview of our successes and our growth plans for FY24. We also provided the new counselors with similar information and deeper discussion on dual credit and OJT opportunities. On August 10th & 11th, we will work with all counselors, secondary SPED teachers, and our CTE teachers and Instructors on the varied perspectives and interactions of the Qatqiññaġvik program.

Human Resources - Greg Culbert

I am humbled to be back working at the NSBSD after a 22 year hiatus. From 1998-2001 I was the NSBSD Technology Manager hired to transform the old Banyan Vines System to a strictly Microsoft Windows and Cisco based infrastructure, with Intel Team Station units replacing the legacy V-Tel System. The community has welcomed me and my family back with open arms, which at times has made me feel like I never really left. I met my wife Tracy on the second floor of Sam & Lee's at a Saturday breakfast and now I have two young adults - Tim (20) and Gracy (18).

Strategic goal 3: Staff success:

Pedagogy Domain: Staff Support & Professional Development

The current human resources environment is challenging anywhere in the country, but in rural Alaska it has reached a critical state.

Dr. Bolen and staff have done an excellent job of bringing in 24 H1B teachers. These teachers are going through the natural adjustment of working in a remote area, but the community at large has sure made them feel welcome.

Strategic goal 2: Community engagement

Pedagogy Domain: Family & Community Collaboration

We look forward to partnering with Ilisagvik College and other institutions of higher education to grow as many teachers as possible for the future. Having select 2+2 agreements would be the best start to connect Ilisagvik with UAA, UAF and UASE. Each Alaskan university has areas of specialization, so we need to leverage those unique relationships in math, science, special education, counseling (social work) and cultural education.

It is our intent to work with all village classified staff to plan individual career pathways that will allow the employees to grow their skill development. Having this developed workforce will help us maintain the stability necessary to curb turnover and stagnation.

Watching the lighting of the seal oil lamp by Jana Harcharek will definitely go down in history as a defining moment for this district.

Our children are worth whatever it takes!

Information Technology - Reginald Santos

Strategic goal 4: Financial and operational stewardship

Pedagogy Domain: Financial & Operational Stewardship

- Additional Starlink Connectivity

We ordered three more Starlink high-performance satellite internet units. These will be installed at Fred Ipalook Elementary, Eben Hopson Middle School, and Barrow High School to support increased internet demands when schools fully reopen.

- Quintillion Subsea Cable Repair

The repair ship is scheduled to arrive August 17 but is dependent on ice conditions. It is currently docked in Dutch Harbor loading cable and will head to Wainwright once loaded. The

fault area has 4-6 tenths ice coverage, with an ice front off Point Barrow. The vessel requires 9-tenths clearance to proceed. Forecasts indicate potential ice-free passage next week.

Strategic goal 3: Staff success

Pedagogy domain: Staff Support & Professional Development

The IT department encountered several challenges in August as we prepared for the new school year.

- Laptop Imaging

Our team struggled to image laptops in the villages and Utqiaġvik schools due to fiber connectivity issues. We will prioritize completing imaging for the Nuiqsut Trapper School and Fred Ipalook Elementary School before the school year starts.

- New Staff Laptops

New staff laptops were ordered using ESSER III funds. These upgraded computers will be distributed to all teachers in need of new devices.

- Distance Learning Equipment

Equipment for the two new distance learning studios at Fred Ipalook Elementary and Wainwright Alak School arrived via barge. This includes ViewSonic interactive panels, dedicated Mac Minis, and other accessories needed for classroom use. We will travel to each village to install and train staff on using this new distance learning technology. The equipment was funded through the FY21 USDA Rural Utilities Service Distance Learning and Telemedicine grant.

Business Office - Tammy Stromberg

Strategic goal 4: Financial and operational stewardship

Pedagogy Domain: Financial & Operational Stewardship

- FY23 audit field work is nearly complete.
- Timeclock software conversion underway.
- Payroll document procedures drafted.

Strategic goal 3: Staff success

Pedagogy domain: Staff Support & Professional Development

- Welcome, Michael Kuhnhausen (Purchasing), Krishna Angeles (Payroll) and Pam Bassett (Accounting Manager) to our team.
- Met with Principals and answered various questions to assist them.

Maintenance & Operations - Steve Cropsey

Strategic goal 4: Financial and operational stewardship

Pedagogy Domain: Financial & Operational Stewardship

Steve Cropsey was invited back to fill-in as Dir. of M&O, his first day on site was June 26, 2023.

TRAPPER SCHOOL: The NSB Assembly, during the open comments, portion of its June meeting had a citizen from Nuiqsut call in and point out that the handicapped student currently attending high school was not completely evacuated during a previous fire drill. This was the result of an

existing wheel chair ramp that was essentially not accessible to the student. This situation became a top priority for resolution at the site and the M&O Dept. The Plant Manager found a completely fabricated steel ramp attached to an old vacated building. M&O site staff with help and cooperation of the NSB DMS crew were able to install this ramp at the entrance near the high school wing. Using the re-purposed equipment and with the NSBSD crew working together with NSB crew and equipment the ramp was installed according to code, in about two weeks and prior to school starting, and saved an estimated \$100,000.

Also in NUI the NVN has provided a budget of \$500,000 to replace two boilers that have cracks in the fire box and are beyond their serviceable life. The PO has been cut and the boilers (\$88,700 total) are ordered. Unfortunately, the delivery lead time is 24 to 28 weeks. We believe the boilers will be delivered and installed at less cost than the budget allocated.

MEADE RIVER SCHOOL(MRS): The first site visit for purposes up updating the 6-Year Capitol Improvement Plan was conducted on July 15, 2023. The follow-up meeting for the FY 24 MRS update will be with the SAC on Aug 15, 2023. Art and playground up grades are the contemplated projects.

ALL VILLAGES: New F 150 Ford pickups are being delivered to all village schools. Unfortunately, the pickups specified by the Dir. of M&O last October were not adhered to. The pickups are very nice sport vehicles but not practical for M&O purposes. They are 4WD Crew Cab short bed F150s (1/2 ton) not 4WD Crew Cab F250s (3/4 ton). Maybe this problem can resolve by getting the Crew Cab F 250s long bed next year for Plant Managers and give the pickups delivered this year to the village school Principals. Principals are all designated to get a new vehicle next year. The sport vehicle still carries 4 passengers easily plus some baggage in the 5'5" bed and are more practical for the Principals' use.

HAROLD KAVEOLOOK SCHOOL: Civil work is underway actually the first time this phrase has been used in the same paragraph with this project is "clean-up is ahead of schedule".





Super sacks containing contaminated soil being shipped out in conjunction with site cleanup.

KAVEOLOOK SCHOOL Cont'd: Funding for the gymnasium phase will, upon sale of the 2024 bonds, be within the Engineers Construction Cost Estimate. Project will be out for bid early October of 2023 Vertical construction will begin spring of 2024.

6-YEAR PLAN: Initial site visits are being conducted (4 sites completed). The DEED copy of the District's 6-Year Plan will be submitted by September 1st and the detailed NSB 6-Year Plan as required by the Project Review Committee, for funding consideration, will be submitted by the January deadline.

Strategic goal 3: Staff success

Pedagogy domain: Staff Support & Professional Development

The organizational culture emphasized within the M&O Department is articulated by the Dept. Mission Statement:

The Maintenance and Operations Department has One Mission:

To provide support and enhancement of the delivery of the District's Instructional Program.