

Chief School Administrator - David Vadiveloo

Utuqqanaavut kisuiġukkitka – sivulliit utuqqanaallu, paṇmami utuqqanaagiravullu, utuqqanaaġuġumaaqtuallu. Quyanaaġitka paṇmamuraglaan aullatimmagit savaktivut iḷiṇṇiaqtuagiravullu. Nalunaigunmigiga sulī iṇuuniaguuṭilaaqput savaguuṭilaaqpullu nunajīṇṇi Iṇupiat. Igliqtitchirauvluta miṇuaqtuġviṇṇik kamasuuttaġigikput ikayuiyumiṇaqaṭta tamatkunani nunani.

Members of the Board and members of the North Slope community, thank you for taking time out of your summer break to support our District as it continues to strengthen operations and outcomes.

As this is an un-scheduled Board meeting I will be brief and will begin by acknowledging our Elders, past, present and emerging in this community and across the slope. Our graduations at the end of the school year we were blessed to have many elders from many communities present and we thank you all for passing your knowledge on to our students and continuing to provide guidance and wisdom to our District, our staff members and all who make up our educational community.

We are daily grateful to be working and living on the sovereign lands of the Iṇupiaq people. We are proud as a District to be trusted to serve the community on these lands.

May and June are a time of planning and preparation, finalizing of budgets and preparations for the new school year, 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 Strategic goals and objectives.

Strategic goal 1: Student success

As a number of sites delivered much need credit recovery and summer school programs for many students, our instructional departments (C&I, Iṇupiaq Ed and Student Services) have continued to close out FY23 and prepare for the new FY24 school year. Curriculum Guides are being finalized, immersion program meetings with parents and training for teachers have continued and recruiting of counselors and SPED teachers remains a focus.

Our Qatqiṇṇiagvik program is preparing to launch a new program of career exploratory, Voc-Ed and technical training opportunities and recruiting continues for elusive trade-skilled contractors to rotate through our village shops.

At this meeting, the Board will conduct the first reading of multiple BPs and AR's that offer support to students through strengthened policies dealing with bullying, harassment and violence. We thank the Board for supporting the administration in this direction and look forward to implementing the policies with the follow through that our students deserve.

Finally, work continues on the development of materials to support the implementation of the new District Pedagogy. All students will benefit from this framework as it is implemented over the next few years, providing an explicit, coherent and accountable educational model that is as clear to teachers, as it is to families and students.

Strategic goal 2: Community engagement

There are some big pieces of work happening in preparation for FY24 in the community engagement space.

Following the success of the budget hearing process and the student activities consultations, both of which included our SAC members for the first time, we are in the final stages of drafting a new edition of the Student Parent handbook which will be presented for comment and discussion to SAC's and community at the start of the new school year.

The administration is also finalizing a School & Community Expectation Agreement (SCEA) process which will provide all sites with a series of steps for collaborating with our families to improve school/community relationships. These SCEA's will increase community input and awareness of building behavioral expectations and raise site administrator awareness of community expectations.

Strategic goal 3: Staff success

We are just a few weeks out from welcoming our H1B teachers. These new staff have met several times now via zoom with Principals, several Directors and the Instructional leadership team. This has allowed the new staff to ask questions about their transition into the NSBSD system and is also providing the District with an invaluable opportunity to understand more about the supports that will be required for them.

As we plan for next school year, most of our returning Principals were able to join our new Assistant Superintendent Ms Mulvenon and myself in Anchorage for the Alaska School Leadership Institute event. Amongst sessions on the new Reads Act requirements, our group spent valuable time in sessions on collective efficacy and leadership discussions about improving efficiency through communications and focused data assessment.

Planning is well underway for the upcoming in-service. This year over 80 new teachers will be attending new-hire in-service. In addition, all site administrators will participate in 2 days of training on strengthening community relationships and creating culturally safe and responsive schools prior to a further 3 days of operational and administrative in-servicing.

Strategic goal 4: Financial and operational Stewardship

The severing of the fiber optic cable providing communications to Utqiagvik, Tikigaq and Uluḡniq placed enormous stress on our IT department and the flow on to other departments facing June 30 and other operational deliverables has been significant. I want to take a minute to thank our IT Director Reggie Santos and his team for their rapid response to this crisis and their focused attendance to the needs of our district. Within 24 hours of the break being announced, the IT department had an alternate central hub operating out of Reggie's home and within 5 days they had mounted a new interim system for central office operations to resume. Tikigaq and Uluḡniq both receive their interim systems this week. This has demanded many many hours of overnight work and logistics and we are all very thankful to the team for their work.

Speaking of many hours of overnight work and logistics, Director Stromberg will present the FY24 budget to the Board at this Meeting. This final document represents the same information provided to the Board as a preliminary budget last month, with a few notable changes.

One notable change is the inclusion of the proposed one-time BSA increase. This one-time increase, which the District will receive in March, was not vetoed by the Governor and as such with the appropriation being approved the District is obliged to record the anticipated incoming revenue. This one-time revenue takes the District in FY24 to a very small net surplus. This surplus represents about 5.6% of the total expenditures of the District so it effectively will offer us one year of operations where revenue will match our projected expenditures.

Another change that Board members will have noticed in this final budget being presented for adoption is the further reduction in foundation funding revenues (excluding the one-time funding) this year (reflecting a change being experienced by Districts across the State who have rural student populations). Board members will also notice an increase in the net cost of food services. This increase is expected to be a one-time increase as a result of 2 factors: one factor is the increased accountability in our food services area that has led to fewer meals being counted for

reimbursement due to them not meeting the required federal standard (the correction that will occur this year will be more rigorous training of kitchen staff and improved food ordering). Another factor is the increasing cost of subsidized meals that the District provides to Elders and pre-K students. This expense is something the administration will discuss further with the NSB.

The final adopted budget is due to the Department of Education and Early Development by July 15, 2023.

Conclusion:

It's an exciting time to be planning for next year. We all know we have many more months of work ahead of us to become the educational service provider that our communities need and deserve and return this district to being the number one school district in the state. To do that we will maintain rigor and focus on the growth of the whole child. This will require us to keep reaching out to community to strengthen relationships and partnerships in our community schools.

Thank you to the Board for meeting with us in June and thank you to our communities for trusting us and supporting us as we rebuild a true community school partnership.