

MEMORANDUM

TO: NWABSD Board of Education Members **DATE:** June 6th, 2023

FR: Office of the Superintendent

SUBJECT: Assistant Superintendent

Scott Lefebvre, Assistant Superintendent reports on the following:

District Suspensions:

The chart below displays the current and previous four school years suspension count from the start of the school year through May 9th, 2023. To prevent releasing potentially identifiable information, some of the sites have an asterisk (*) and suspension data will not be reported at this time.

Suspensions by Site (full year)

Site	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Ambler	29	3	9	15	0	15	6
Buckland	18	5	9	3	0	2	23
Deering	0	1	1	0	0	4	*
Kiana	45	53	30	16	0	5	12
Kivalina	42	17	25	21	2	8	5
Kobuk	4	6	4	4	0	0	0
Kotz- JNES	26	10	4	3	0	0	0
Kotz- KMHS	104	94	58	31	4	43	47
Noatak	25	14	14	27	5	11	*
Noorvik	36	22	9	5	8	17	35
Selawik	131	23	16	36	16	18	37
Shungnak	14	0	0	7	0	1	0
Total	474	248	179	168	35	124	171

* 1-4
suspensions

Youth Leaders Update:

Youth Leader end of year report 2022-23

With several Covid outbreaks and the new Kivalina School relocation, the 2023-23 school year was the first full successful year of restoring the Youth Leader program.

The program Coordinator, Marvin Sheldon was very busy this year as he learned his role in coordinating: two summer leadership camps for the program captains; the program's District retreat; two chaperoned trips to AASB events; monthly teams meetings; submitting reports and administrative requests; and most importantly, establishing networks and strengthening relationships with and for the program.

In May and August, we held Captains leadership training camps in Kotzebue. Each school site sent two representatives and the camps focused on building self-confidence and working as a leadership team. The attendees included middle school Captains which presented challenges to the administration of the program due to their age and at the same time, our Captains brought high levels of energy to their newfound roles of responsibilities. During the August camp, Captains met and dined with the newly hired educators as they introduced themselves and their culture to the eager newcomers. When they returned to their villages, the captains gathered their teams and welcomed the new staff by meeting them at the airport and moving boxes and luggage into their new residences and then helping the staff in setting up classrooms and bulletin boards. Teams assisted site staff in cleaning and preparing schools for the start of their school years. Teams made public service announcements for their local VHF radios reminding residents about the starting of the new school year: helping students adjust their sleeping schedules; completing necessary paperwork and permission slips; and the schools health and safety protocols.

In September the Youth Leader held their first district wide training retreat with over 80 students and 11 advisors. Three trainers were joined by the advisors in providing training in subject: self-esteem and confidence; introductions and relationship building/nurturing; public speaking; and working together as a team to accomplish tasks and provide support. Participants engaged in fun and creative activities as difficult subjects were discussed. Prevention topics (Suicide, Sexual Assault, Bullying, Domestic Violence, Alcohol tobacco and other drugs) were addressed with adult guest speakers sharing their advice and personal stories with youth and art therapy resulting in an art walk displaying the students work. The retreat Olympics were won by Team Kivalina and participants enjoyed the social activities including a glow in the dark dance which created lasting memories. As expected, most participants surveyed reported learning new information to help them in making healthier choices for themselves and discovering their newfound empowerment in this new leadership opportunity.

As the year progressed, many teams faced Covid challenges which presented activity and event obstacles, but each team remained active in their schools and communities. All teams stayed busy welcoming visitors to their schools and villages, assisting villages with their seasonal and cultural activities, and assisting NMS with meal and janitorial services for schools' daily operations. Teams routinely completed their school's morning announcements and student greetings, assisted with parent/teacher conferences and community engagement events, provided health promotional VHF announcements, and in representing their care and support of neighbors, teams conducted community fundraisers to help families facing tragedies. This year's most active team – Team Shungnak – reported numerous daily activities and special events. As a result of their veteran Youth Leaders Advisor and Principal, the team continues to dominate the Youth Leader activity reports. In addition to school related activities, the team was busy with both community and school engagement events such as parent involvement reading and book fairs, cultural education and celebration events such as Veterans Day/Elders luncheon to honor military and families.

Youth Leaders represented at two statewide Alaska Association of School Board events. In November the 8-member student team participated in the 69th Annual Association of Alaska School Boards Conference and Youth Leadership Institute in Anchorage. This conference provided numerous opportunities for Board Members to hear students and staff's opinions, issues, and challenges. Youth Leaders learned leadership principals and were taught ways to use their voices for change in their

schools and communities. In February, the 4-member student team attended the Ak State Legislative fly-in and Youth Advocacy Institute. Students and School Board members worked together as a united front when they met with other Alaska School District representatives and all conference participants walked to the state capital to meet with legislature and other elected officials. Students were well prepared to advocate for an increase in Alaska's Base Student Allocation. Students discuss the challenge of teacher retention and its negative affect on student learning. The last legislative focus addressed student wellness, which students were able to highlight the NWABSD Teck Youth Leaders program and its successful strategies.

In February, Shungnak Youth Leaders hosted an Upriver Elementary Retreat. Over 24 elementary students from Ambler, Kobuk, and Shungnak gathered to learn basic life and social skills and ways to make good and healthy choices for themselves and their siblings. While participants had fun playing instructional games, creating art projects, the group responded enthusiastically to the discussion of "Responsibility to Tribe" Inupiaq value.

This year Youth Leaders were challenged implementing their innovative 3M (My Mood Matters) initiative. This project will be up and running starting at the beginning of the next school year. The program coordinator will focus his efforts on improved program documentation next year.

We are expecting to host two Captains training this summer and have already set the district fall retreat date – September 14-17, 2023. We expect the second full complete year of the program restoration to easily be completed with students and staff becoming more familiar and comfortable in their roles within their schools and villages.

Reported by,
Marvin Sheldon – Youth Leader Coordinator



- Youth Leaders have a tab for more information on our District Website. This is a requirement for our partnership with Teck. The Youth Leaders will maintain the space on our website and share important information.
Nwarcic.org > Parents & Students > Youth Leaders

Youth Leaders will be housed in the Student Services Department under Perrian Windhausen where she will be able to give direction for the program utilizing the counseling resources.

IPRARS Update

Evaluations:

- Principals were evaluated using the evaluation tool that the District has utilized in years past.
- Three sites will pilot a new teacher and administration evaluation system provided by IPRARS Grant partner NIET in FY24.