

Administrator Report

Superintendent Office - Rich Carlson

COVID-19, the Delta variant, school closures, and remote instruction continue to be overwhelming themes of the current school year. While we continue to strive for in-person instruction, we are facing many challenges. We are in the process of creating a document that outlines understandable and consistent guidelines for schools to follow regarding COVID. Committee members consisting of Caitlin Montague, David Camp, Joel Antes, Jessica Kalvig and Rich Carlson began work to develop a COVID Operations Manual. Our hope is to have a completed “Manual” ready for distribution by the time of the Board Meeting.

On September 25, the North Slope Borough School District (NSBSD) Negotiating Team resumed meeting with the North Slope Education Administration Association. This is a continuation of negotiation that began last year. Our team consists of Qaiyaan Harcharek, Nancy Rock, Robyn Burke (as Alternate), David Camp, Fadil Limani and Rich Carlson. It is hoped that in the near future we can reach an agreement on a 2022-2024 contract with the Administration Association.

The Association of Alaska School Boards held their Fall Academy September 17, 18 and 19, 2021, in Anchorage. This was the first “in person” conference conducted by AASB in 19 months. I think all participants appreciated the opportunity to finally get together in person. Madeline Hickman, Nora Jane Burns and myself attended on behalf of the NSBSD. Topics included Board/Superintendent Relation, the Board’s Role in Personnel, School Counseling, a focus on mental health, Board Policies and more. I want to thank the District for the opportunity to attend this training.

As was the case last month, the “risk status” (Red, Yellow and Green) of our schools is changing rapidly with schools moving in and out of the red and green status. We are trying to update the website daily. Susan Hope does a great job communicating with the principals about changes so we can try to keep all informed. Because of the pace of changes, I will provide a verbal update at the time of the Board meeting.

As you are aware the Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) Annual Conference will be held on November 4-7, 2021, in Anchorage. This year the NSBSD will be hosting the Rural Caucus. This is not a small gathering. The caucus consists of 23 school districts with the goal of promoting issues that advance life in rural Alaska. At the present time the AASB Conference will be a “live” event with strict COVID protocols.

On September 20th, I made a difficult decision to extend remote learning in Utqiagvik for an additional twelve days beyond the original targeted date of September 22nd. This was a difficult call because we all want to go back to in-person instruction. Yet I felt that the situation had not improved since the Board decision to go remote and in fact positive cases had spiked. Hopefully by allowing more time for the positive cases to significantly decrease we will be in a better place to go back to in-person instruction for the long haul.

Thanks to the Board for allowing me the opportunity to attend the Alaska Superintendents’ Association Annual Conference. Especially during these challenging times it was critical to gain insight, ideas, and approaches from a wide range of professional educators. The phrase, “we are all in this together” has ever been more important than now.

Maintenance & Operations - Craig Jones

AIN: Alak School is currently in “red.” Punch list items from summer projects are being wrapped up; M&O is looking into fire panel upgrade. We are also looking to resolve some pupil transportation issues.

AKP: Waste line Replacement & Upgrades project upcoming. Contract was awarded to UICC. Plant Manager selected, on boarding in November. Working to resolve IT issues in Nunamiut School.

ATQ: Video surveillance project for Meade River School has been completed along with the Meade River School Fire Alarm System upgrade. FF&E items for ATQ out to bid.

KAK: Small electrical fire reported by the Plant Manager. Fire was contained and put out immediately. Thank you to NSB Fire Department.

NUI: Waste line Replacement & Upgrades project upcoming. Contract was awarded to UICC. We’d like to welcome John McKenzie to the M&O team, he is the new Plant Manager in Nuiqsut Trapper School.

PHO: Tikigaq School is in “red.” We are taking this time to do our inventory for Food Service and sanitation.

PIZ: RFP has been sent to bidders for Kali School Bleachers. We are waiting for an electrician to fly out to hook up 4 & 5 plex waste water tank.

UTQ: BHS bleachers procurement is ongoing; locker room upgrades & pool renovation ongoing.

RLC: Project ongoing.

Information Technology - Everett Haimes

The Information Technology department has been busy assembling video teleconferencing carts supplied by the RUS grant. Assembly instructions are being developed for the villages and roll-out is scheduled for November and Zoom Room licenses will need to be required to be purchased and the contract over 10k is being prepared for the November board meeting.

Teacher email has been problematic due to the present partial email implementation of Gmail being incompatible with the District's current Exchange/Office 365 mail flow configuration. We are devising a plan to migrate faculty and students to Gmail, retiring the Office 365 email while leaving staff on our existing self-hosted Microsoft Exchange. This would save the District money in the form of license fees for Office 365/Exchange, and the savings may be used to upgrade Google to Enterprise providing increased storage and functionality, a benefit we believe would be well received. Additionally, this would reduce the storage and backup requirements for our Exchange system as well as utilize less bandwidth on our Utqiaġvik broadband circuit.

Work has been progressing towards the Emergency Connectivity Fund application and we plan to submit in the following weeks.

We are entering into a contract with CEL Marketing to evaluate our present ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) website issues, with the outcome to be either a proposal to assist with the mitigation of our existing problems or to migrate to a new platform by FinalSite, a school centric web host which is much better suited to maintain ADA compliance in the long term.

Human Resources - David Camp

Mission - Embrace a Diverse and Inclusive Workforce

Vision - The Right People Doing the Right Things in the Right Way...ALL the Time.

It has been over 3 months since I accepted my position and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the villages, students and families, and employees. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their patience as I, along with the HR team, have worked through many issues from last year and currently continue to seek improvements to our HR processes and communication plan. It is genuinely a privilege to serve here. Thank you.

Lisa Harcharek has been hired effective 10/04 through 11/19 and will work to systematically reorganize e-files, and find missing documentation that have been lost in processes implemented by 6 previous HRD's. Lisa will also assist in the training of McKenzie Hewitt, our new permanent Coordinator. McKenzie will begin her duties Oct 25, 2021. McKenzie lives in Utqiagvik, is a rehire with 6 years of experience in human resources, and comes highly recommended. We are blessed to add her service to NSBSD.

Our new HR Strategic Plan will be rolled out this month to the HR team first, then administrators, in an effort to communicate effective department turnaround and change management of HR processes implemented throughout the district.

We continue to actively recruit for the Assistant Superintendent and Grants Coordinator positions. Currently, we have 3 strong candidates for the Grants Coordinator position that will go through the interview process, in hopes to have this position filled by the middle of the month.

Curriculum & Instruction - Liz Noble

Limited English Proficiency (LEP) plans have been created for students identified as English Language Learners. LEP's are housed in our student data warehouse, Milepost. Student English Language Learner lists were disseminated to sites. ELL Coordinator, Kathleen Fisher, met with the teacher of record and the Building Test Coordinator to create an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) for each LEP student. ILP's are housed in our student data warehouse, Milepost. We are also currently working with Kellie Harry from Education Northwest to provide professional development with focus in the area of Alaska Native English language acquisition.

First District Wide In-Service, held 9/20/2021, hosted 171 participants. Topics included Multi Tier Student Success (MTSS), Small group Instruction, Intro to MyPath K-5, Intro to Courseware and MyPath for 6-12, Imagine Learning K-5, and Text Dependent Analysis 6-12 for all content areas. Breakout groups included Inupiaq Language Teachers, Counselors, Special Education Staff and Administrators.

Seventy four In-Service Survey Responses indicate shorter training sessions, housekeeping review, and more tiered professional development was recommended for future In-Services.

Surveylink:https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe0IKMM-6V2iXnEDf5M2EOA5GI5UE0jAjF9Q4WS7NYzW0RPqQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

As noted above, the increased number of sites, identified as Red, has decreased our opportunity to collect data needed to support a Program Usage Report at this time.

Eligible Students should begin to receive their P-EBT cards for SY20-21. Cards should start to arrive in September for Fall 2020 and October for Spring 2021 semester. Eligible students are

scheduled to receive up to \$458.00 (\$10.99 daily)) per semester. Summer resources are approximately \$604.00 per student and these are scheduled for release November 2021. White P-EBT cards are refillable and are issued in Student names. Students eligible to receive the P-EBT cards are those students/families that did not have access to meals and qualify for free and reduced lunches.

Library:

District Librarian, Erin Hollingsworth, is completing the district wide Battle of the Books order which will be submitted once the school board approves the ASTAC annual donation of \$15,000.00.

Assessment & Accountability:

First NWEA Benchmark window opened September 6 however, due to the increased number of sites identified as Red status, Kim will meet, September 27, with Administrators and Superintendent to determine a plan forward. One focus area for the October District In-Service is NWEA data and reports that will support teacher reflection and student academic growth.

Developmental Profile for Kindergarten and eligible First graders is scheduled September 17-November 1, 2021.

Purpose of the Developmental Profile is as follows:

- To identify, record, and summarize the skills and behaviors students demonstrate upon entry to school, based on teacher observations.

Student skills and behaviors are defined by whether students are consistently demonstrating 13 goals and indicators in the following five domains from Alaska's Early Learning Guidelines:

- Physical Well-Being, Health, and Motor Development
- Social and Emotional Development
- Approaches to Learning
- Cognition and General Knowledge
- Communication, Language, and Literacy

As of 9/23/2021 NSBSD student enrollment is 2093. Our 30 Day Student Count will occur between September 27 and October 22.

Ian Acuna, Data Specialist, created At-Risk Calendars for all sites. These calendars will help us keep abreast of each site's Covid status and, it also supports our report to the state for the Pandemic EBT resources for students/families.

Jenni Lefing, will present, today, an overview of the School Climate Connectedness Survey (SCCS) 20-21 results.

Youth Risk Behavior Survey: In light of the unprecedented challenges school districts and schools are facing due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Alaska Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) Program has decided to cancel the 2021 administration of the YRBS, which was scheduled to begin in October. This was a difficult decision, as we feel it is more important than ever to collect data on adolescent health risk behaviors. However, given the current circumstances, we do not believe it is possible to successfully administer the survey at this time.

Educational Technology:

Renaissance Place has added Freckles Math to their platform. Approximately 30 staff attended Freckles training September 22.

All NSBSD approved programs have been renewed and available for staff and students.

Career Technical Education - Ronnie Hawley

CTE/RLC: I'm currently completing an inventory audit of the drones purchased in 2017. This equipment was originally purchased for the World Bridge program. I have been advised from multiple sources that companies across the state of Alaska and the lower 48 are requesting certified drone pilots. They are in high demand for drilling companies and the mining industry in Alaska. The CTE department is reaching out to the post-secondary school to inquire about the validity of such a program.

MOU/MOA process: The CTE/RLC department is currently working to update and reinstate several MOU's and MOA'S. The funding and resources that will be available to the district will allow our students opportunities in various sectors. Courses in welding, small engines, and carpentry will be the primary focus in several villages. The next tier of programs being added are in Health, Heavy Equipment operator, and aviation. The executed MOA's will allow for instructional delivery via distance and on site.

1. We had a MOU in place with Alaska Excel for many years before it expired in February of 2021. We are working with the Alaska Excel team to get the MOU updated and presented to the NSBSD board as soon as possible.

1. Ilisagvik College MOA – This MOA is ongoing. In the board packet is the updated MOA ready for review and signature. This MOA is carried over from year to year. There is a memo for funds attached for the district portion of the student materials cost. This MOA is used for dual credit courses.

3. North Slope Borough MOA – this MOA is crucial to the CTE/RLC program. I am working with Superintendent Carlson, Mr. Fadil Lamani, and Mr. William Schilbach creating a proposal for the Mayor's office. The funds that are being requested will drive what we are able to bring to the district for programs of study.

My mission of CTE/RLC will always be for the success of our students. Within that success is a drive to bring skills and knowledge to our students allowing them to be productive members of society. Delivering training and instruction over various career sectors will allow our students to enter the workforce as confident, capable adults. I look to a future where NSBSD is the corner stone of career exploration for the state of Alaska.

Inupiaq Education - Tenna Judkins

The Inupiaq Education Department is still working with the administration to restructure our department. We are planning to do a detailed presentation to the board regarding this in hopes to have a discussion, provide clarification and answer any questions, and gain Board support. We previously had two vacancies in our department and are currently working on hiring for one of the positions while working on this restructure - this is still a specialist position that we had already within our budget.

We participated in the September 20th district-wide inservice where we conducted a cultural activity in the morning teaching everyone how to do the Tinjūn song and dance, and then had an afternoon breakout session with the Iñupiat Language Teachers, where we had an overview of all the cultural-based units, shared successes in the classroom, and went over how to access student logins for VIVA as well as how to access the shared ILT materials on the network drive. We have a monthly collaboration meeting on September 29th where we will discuss the status of COVID and the possibility of restructuring the ILT training to be completed virtually or still plan for in-person.

We helped plan the cultural inservice for Ałak school which was held on September 18th. They ended up doing the morning session with some local experts discussing various topics and then the afternoon session they did instruction on their own. We have also been in communication with Tikigāq School regarding their cultural inservice preparations which are tentatively scheduled for October 2nd, depending on COVID guidelines and protocols.

We are almost completely done with hiring the added duty contracts for the Mapkuq Mentors at each site -- there are still some vacancies at a few sites, but we are working on recruiting teachers and working with site administrators at those respective sites to get these positions filled. Once they are filled we can progress forward with Project Mapkuq initiatives and other training opportunities.

We are continuing to partner with and work on various grant projects as well in collaboration with Curriculum & Instruction and Student Services. Some of those grant projects include: New Visions art grant, C3 Aullaagvik grant (also in partnership with Alaska Humanities Forum and Arctic Slope Community Foundation), the ANEP grant, and initiative within the Indian Education grant, as well as other initiatives happening throughout the district.

One main thing that we have been brainstorming quite a bit is the possibility and availability of contracting with a few local Iñupiaq speakers to provide language mentorship and translations. There are a lot of different projects we are working on that we have translated on our own and need others to confirm that our translations are accurate. Language learning initiatives and language revitalization is still at the forefront of everything we are doing within our department which is why we have been placing heavy emphasis on supporting our Iñupiaq Language Teachers and their language proficiency. It is inevitable that we are in a state where a majority of our teachers are motivated, second language learners, who want to not only learn for themselves but teach what they have learned. We have been discussing various options and what this may look like including available human resources, compensation, and project needs.

Student Services - Lori Roth

Special Education

The Student Services Department continues to make improvements to the Embrace data system in collaboration with Northwest Arctic Borough School District. Additional training was provided to SPED teachers on September 20, 2021. SPED staff has been encouraged to maintain contact with parents due the COVID restriction face to face instruction. We would like to thank Diana Marsh for joining us on a contractual basis to support our ECE and SPED teachers to advertise, and implement Special Education Child find legally-mandated procedures. If a parent has a concern that their child may have a disability that interferes with their learning and may need a special education evaluation, please contact your site principal or the Student Services Office.

Section 504 Plans

Section 504 Plans and related documents are established in the Embrace database.

NSBSD currently is providing support to 10 students district-wide who have been found eligible for accommodations under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. A 504 Plan is appropriate for students with disabilities who do not require specialized instruction, but need the assurance that they will receive equal access to public education and services. A 504 Plan is created under the direction of the school psychologist and outlines their specific accessibility requirements. Students with 504 Plans do not require specialized instruction, but, like the IEP, a 504 Plan is updated annually and re-evaluated every 3-years to ensure that the student is receiving the most effective accommodations for his/her specific circumstances.

Counselors

The Youth Mental Health First Aid training occurred on September 20, 2021. We are happy to report we had 17 NSBSD school counselors and local Agency staff participate and earn certification. A district-wide training to identify students who may be homeless will be presented to all site administrators, home-school facilitators, and school counselors on November 19, 2021. Every site will identify a homeless liaison as a primary contact. Contact information will be available at www.nsbsd.org.

State & Federal Grants - Lori Roth

Alternative Schools Grant: Application not yet available.

American Recovery Act: The Mitigation and SMARTstart plan was updated through a collaborative effort of each Department. The updated plans were posted at www.nsbsd.org. The application needs to be updated due to the addition of funds.

CARES ACT1: Roll-over funds can be accessed through a sub award in the American Recovery Act.

CRSSA (CARES Act 2): Roll-over funds can be accessed through a sub award in the American Recovery Act.

Higher Pathways Grants: The Higher Pathways grant provides high schools and Native organizations with funding, support, and resources to promote college readiness. Each can apply for 3,000.00. A grant acceptance memo will be presented for Kiita Learning Community at this Board meeting. Tikigaq, Alak, Nunamiut, Nuiqsut, BHS, and Kali rolled over funds that will be spent by October 15, 2021.

Indian Education Grant: In collaboration with the C7I Department, the after school tutoring plans and staff have been approved. As of this report, after school tutoring is in place for Nuiqsut Trapper, Ipalook Elementary, Hopson Middle School, Harold Kaveolook School, and Meade River School. As per the Indian Education Committee, funds have been released for purchasing e-books for libraries district-wide. Annual Performance Report Due October 29, 2021.

Johnson O'Malley Grant: The FY20 & 21 applications have been budgeted and approved by the Bureau of Indian affairs. The Inupiaq Ed Department is currently determining sites in need of sewing machines to be purchased through these funds.

Migrant Education: Follow-up meetings have been scheduled with local recruiters. The recruiting of migrant eligible families has been slowed due to COVID restriction.

New Visions Grant: The New Visions district-wide committee met on August 21 & Sept 11, 2021 to review and implement the FY20 application. The committee established a plan and funds

continue to be spent. A budget revision will be completed for remaining funds prior to the FY22 application being submitted.

Perkins Grant: This grant will be represented by Ronnie Hawley.

School Improvement Grants: The School Improvement Grant application was re-submitted in collaboration with site administrators and approved. Funds are available to all sites.

sisAMAT Grant: This ANEP grant is being implemented in collaboration with ASNA and the Alaska Staff Development Network (ASDN). This grant has been approved for a 4th-year extension due to implementation challenges brought about by COVID-19. This grant focuses on professional development, academic achievement, social/emotional support with the integration and development of culturally-based units. As per the grant narrative, Kelly Tonsmiere, is the grant director. Liz Noble, Lori Roth, Ronnie Hawley, and Tenna Judkins attend collaboration meetings 2 times per month to report on grant implementation and spending. A sole-source grant-funded MOA with the Alaska Staff Development Network will be submitted for Board consideration in November.

Special Education (VI-B): The Special Education Grant was re-submitted to the Department of Education. The grant application was returned requesting budget revision. According to DEED, a mis-calculation occurred by the State and the application will be re-released when the error is corrected.

Suicide Grant: In collaboration with Curriculum & Instruction, a virtual district-wide training will be provided to all staff for suicide identification and intervention on October 18, 2021. The Cook Inlet Tribal Council will provide a virtual training on evidence-based Question, Persuade, Respond (QPR). The funding amount and award for FY22 is not yet available.

Title Grants:

Title 1: The roll-over FY21 funding has been populated in GMS. The application will be submitted once all site-based information is provided.

Title 2: Application is complete and ready for submission.

Title 3: Application is complete and ready for submission.

Title IV- These funds are to support at-risk students. Funds will be utilized to purchase remote training from Crisis Prevention Intervention. Verbal de-escalation for identified staff in each site. As required, the funds will be utilized to provide training to 1 NSBSD staff person to be a trainer and support the verbal de-escalation training. NSBSD has utilized this state-approved evidence-based intervention since prior to this Director's tenure. Funds will also be utilized to support an expansion of *Leader in Me* training at HMS, Nunamiut School, and Nuiqsut Trapper school. An NSBSD Memo, sole-source memo, and bid will be presented for Board consideration in October. Application is complete and ready for submission.