

Administrative Report

Superintendent David Vadiveloo

Utuqqanaavut kisuiġukkitka – sivulliit utuqqanaallu, paŋmami utuqqanaagiravullu, utuqqanaaġuġumaaqtuallu. Quyanaaġitka paŋmamuraglaan aullatimmagit savaktivut ilīññaqtuagiravullu. Nalunaigunmigiga sulī iñuuniaġuutilaaqput savaguutilaaqpullu nunanjiññi lñupiat. Igliqtitchirauvluta minuaqtuġvinñik kamasuuttaġigikput ikayuiyumiññaqpta tamatkunani nunani.

Members of the Board and community, Yay hey hey!!! And congratulations to all our whaling crews across the Slope that feed our communities and pass on invaluable life lessons and knowledge to our young people. We acknowledge Elders, past, present and emerging, and we express our gratitude to the Inupiaq people of the North Slope for allowing us to live and work on their sovereign, self determined lands.

As a District we've started the new school year strongly again, with a record number of students enrolled in the first vocational education / CTE intensives this year, and exciting AKStar test results showing that due to the investment and direction of our Board, our students continue to thrive. 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 new Strategic goals and objectives.

Family & Community Collaboration

Goal 1: Prioritize and implement intentional and purposeful partnerships

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE: Our operations were upended this month by a cybersecurity incident that resulted in profound disruption to operations. But we kept our schools open and we kept delivering education to our students and this was due in no small part to the critical relationships and partnerships that Director Reggie Santos has built with multiple vendors who swung into action and assisted us with recovering from the cybersecurity outage.

MAYORS OFFICE RECORD FUNDING: Our strong and stable partnership with NSB has seen an increase in Mayor's supplemental funds agreed to this month to the tune of a further \$1.6M this year - and while the MOA's took a little longer than hoped to iron out details, these MOAs will result in more CTE intensives and programs, more student activities including ANSEP, regional basketball and off-slope opportunities, more support for Inupiaq drum and dance, the first Inupiaq early reader series taken to completion and for the first time ever, 5 full time positions for language learner speaker positions at the NSBSD.

STUDENT WELLBEING: This month our staff attended a National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) presentation hosted by Integrated Behavioral Health (IBH), attended the first NVB Tribal Court Wellness Program meeting, and participated in the North Slope Wellness Coalition meeting,

AKCIS 360 BEST IN STATE! Through the collaborative efforts of Career & Technical Education, Curriculum & Instruction, the lñupiat Education Department, and AKCIS, NSBSD was recently

recognized as having the highest Alaska Career Information Service AKCIS 360 usage among all school districts to date in the 2026–2027 school year.

PUBLIC HEALTH: And we are partnering with Gustavus Adolphus College's Nursing Department this fall to provide nursing students with an opportunity to complete a portion of their Public Health Clinical rotation within our communities.

Culturally Responsive Instruction

All students perform at or above grade level

ACADEMIC GROWTH CONTINUES: The unprecedented growth of our students continued in the 2026 AK STAR and Alaska Science Assessment results where real momentum was seen in the early grades and in science. Districtwide our Third grade is the standout. The share of third graders scoring proficient in ELA doubled from 5% to 10%, and the share needing support fell from 59% to 53%, continuing a four-year positive trend. Third-grade math also improved, with needs support dropping from 66% to 57%. These numbers do not lie. They tell us that we still have a long way to go - but importantly they should be a cause for celebrating how far our students have moved from a time just a few years ago when proficiency rates were below 5%.

These gains carry through fifth grade. Across grades three through five, the share of students needing support fell 6 to 12 points in ELA and math. Fourth-grade ELA needs support dropped 7 points, and fifth-grade math saw 12% of students move out of needs support, with proficient or advanced rising 5 points.

As Dr Santos has repeatedly reminded us, this will be a journey from far below, to below, to proficient and then to above proficient. And we must stay the course - there are no magic wands - just strong stable programs and strong stable leadership and hard work from our kids - who keep showing us that when we get the system right as we have - they can, they will and they do grow and achieve and thrive.

And to ensure the needs of all learners are met, this year our students in grades 4 through 8 scoring below the 40th percentile on NWEA MAP will undergo further diagnostic screening using mCLASS to identify specific skill deficits and inform the development of targeted intervention plans.

All students are prepared for their pathway of choice post-high school

PATHWAYS TO THE FUTURE: The Tumitchiat Sivunmun Plans (TSP), launched in partnership with the Iñupiat Education Department and Career and Technical Education, has achieved notable success this year, highlighted by North Slope Borough School District's recognition as the district with the highest student participation rate in the AKCIS 360 program statewide.

The upcoming CTE intensive at the QLC will include:

- Construction Trades I–II – Tiny Home Project
- Small Engines
- Photo, Video & Music Production

Student interest in the upcoming intensive reached a record high. A total of 58 students applied, compared with the previous high of 32 applicants for a QLC intensive. Village CTE programming

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will also continue this school year, allowing students to receive high-quality CTE programming while remaining in their home communities. Upcoming Culinary Village Intensives are planned for Wainwright, Atkasuk, Point Lay, and Point Hope, expanding access to hands-on CTE opportunities for students at these village sites.

In response to the increased student interest, we were able to expand enrollment in the Tiny Home Project. The program was initially planned for 8 students; however, we added 4 additional students, bringing the total Tiny Home cohort to 12 students

And finally, the CTE Department is also preparing to bring the student-built 10×10 shed before the School Board for consideration and approval for disposal through a sealed competitive bid. The shed was constructed by students during a previous CTE intensive, with materials purchased through the District's General Fund.

Graduate bilingual students

As we continue to build a platform under our language programs, the Inupiaq Education Department delivered 22 hours of group mentor apprentice program GMAP immersion instruction for ILTs and IED staff between August 24 and September 8.

Student Social & Emotional Wellbeing

Facilitate & maintain culturally, emotionally, & physically safe learning environments

During September, counselors will raise awareness about suicide prevention and mental health and encourage students to seek support when needed. In addition, counselors will provide age-appropriate presentations and discussions for students across our schools focused on suicide prevention and the importance of supporting one another. Students will learn how to recognize when someone may be struggling, how to respond when they are concerned about a friend or peer, and how to connect with trusted adults and available resources.

Staff Support & Professional Development

Goal 6: Build and sustain a thriving workforce aligned with the mission of this District

New hire staff in the past month had the opportunity to explore lesson planning within CHALK and deepen their understanding of state standards and associated curricula materials, ensuring all students are receiving high-quality, accessible learning experiences. Building on this foundation, coaching cycles are now underway, with instructional specialists supporting teachers both virtually and through on-site visits to strengthen instructional practice and improve student learning outcomes.

Financial & Operational Stewardship

Standardize high-functioning, efficient, student-focused operations

CYBERSECURITY: The primary focus of the Information Technology Department this month has been the response to and recovery from the recent cybersecurity incident affecting portions of the North Slope Borough School District's technology infrastructure. While we continue to navigate this serious incident I want to take a moment to recognize Director Reggie Santos and his team for their instant response to this crisis, their tireless work, and their commitment above and beyond the normal call of duty to keep our district up and running.

As a result of this cybersecurity incident, the Monthly Financial Report and Recruitment Updates are not available at this regular meeting but we will provide the Board with updated reports at the next meeting.

AUDIT: The FY26 Financial Audit is almost complete. Just like last year, the District may have to issue the Financial Statements separate from the Federal Compliance due to a delay from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in issuing Federal Compliance information. At this point, we do not see this delay affecting the operations of the District. Altman, Rogers, & Co. will be presenting the FY26 Audited Financial Statement in October.

CIP: Eleven CIP projects have been completed to date this year across district sites. These projects include boiler upgrades, door security upgrades, technology refresh for students and intercom systems upgrades. The completion of these projects represents meaningful progress in addressing district facility needs.

CLOSING:

As this is my last administrative report I want to take a moment to thank the entire Board of Education, both the members of this body and the previous members, for your unswerving support for the reform and improvement of our district.

4 and half years ago this administration inherited a district that was in freefall. You had seen 7 Superintendents in 6 years. Student growth and achievement was at unacceptably low levels. Morale was low, the district was splintered and there was little accountability.

Change is hard for some. Reform of systems is even harder. But that is what has been happening at the NSBSD for 4 and half years. And while there will always be a handful of people who fight against change and want to keep things the way they were when the district was in chaos, the data, the feedback, the surveys and the results of our students over the past 4 years confirm that this change has been for the good of our children. That this urgently needed reform has been in the best interests of our children.

In four and half short years we have gone from being the laughing stock of the state, with people tuning in to listen to our board meetings to hear the next instalment of chaos, to us having a stable, unified board, and students who are outperforming the state of Alaska in their growth. I implore each and every Board member - and our community who are listening - to think on that growth. To think on how we have achieved that change. For our children, let us not go backwards. Let us stay united.

We have rebuilt relationships with the NSB, receiving unprecedented financial support that is being invested by you as a board into more athletics than ever before for our previously forgotten village sites, more activities like ANSEP, Disney choir for village students, more Inupiaq dancing and drumming, more social and emotional supports, more CTE intensives and employment pathways being opened up. Just to name a few of the changes. For the first time in the history of our district, the Inupiaq language is now a graduation requirement, we have twice as many positions for ILTS, an immersion/dual language program and a program to train new speakers.

These are not small achievements and the board and the community should rightly be proud of this growth of our district and the outcomes of our students. But the job is not nearly done. You have written a strategic plan that maps this growth into 2029. And Dr Santos, your next Superintendent, will stay the course with you so that we don't experience the instability that leadership change has meant for this and many other regions in the past. The Superintendent may be changing but your strategic plan, and the platform and programs will continue with your support and stability.

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To my leadership team, the directors and principals and assistant principals, Chelsie and Ahlook and Susan Hope - thank you for committing to this change. For putting the best interests and growth of our students ahead of your own interests and for building this tremendous platform for further growth. I am aware that I can be a tough leader to work under. That is how I was raised by my Elders. I hope I have modeled the same standards and work ethic that I expected of you and I hope you continue to lift the bar for our staff and our students. High expectations bring choice and success.

To all our staff thank you for committing your time and knowledge to our students each and every day. For knowing that this is the most important job in any community because it is laying the groundwork and the future pathways for future leaders and our entire community.

And to our stakeholder partners, the NSB, Ilisagvik College, the tribes and cities and corporations, and of course to our families and community members - Quyanag for your kindness, your support, and most importantly your belief in our children to attend more, achieve more and grow more.

And finally and most importantly for me, to the Elders who have continued to speak truth into the education space, who have guided me and re-aligned me, suoked me and encouraged me - Rex and Leona Okakok, Dr Pausauraq Jana Harcharek, George and Debby Edwardson, Etta Fournier, Uncle Herman Ahsoak, Doreen Simmonds, Molly Pederson, Martha Stackhouse, Elsie Itta, Nora Jane Burns, Madeline Hickman, Aana Lane, Patsy Ahmodt, Dr Edna McLean, Charlie Brower, - and of course my own parents who both passed away while I was in this job - there are many more elders who have provided support and I apologize for missing names i'm sure - . That wisdom and knowledge is too often overlooked, bypassed or minimized. As younger people we think we know it all. But even as I have entered my 60th year, I know that I am only here because of their hard work and it only ever strengthens us and makes us better when we listen to them.

It has been an honor to serve this community and this District as your Superintendent. Quyanag for trusting me with that responsibility.

Quyanagpak.
Atautchimukta.
Pisigilugit Qitungavut.
Tavra!

End report DSV