

Administrative Report

Superintendent David Vadivelloo

Utuqqanaavut kisuiġukkitka – sivulliit utuqqanaallu, paŋmami utuqqanaagiravullu, utuqqanaaġuġumaaqtuallu. Quyanaaġitka paŋmamuraglaan aullatimmagit savaktivut ilin̄ñaqtuagiravullu. Nalunaigun̄migiga sulī iñuuniaguutilaaqput savaguutilaaqpullu nunan̄jñi iñupiat. Igliqtitchiravuluta min̄uaqtuġvin̄nik kamasuuttaġigikput ikayuiyumiñaqapta tamatkunani nunani.

Members of the Board and community, upingaksraq (Spring) is here, March basketball madness is well underway and after a strong year of growth for so many of our student, we are on the home straight. Our administration has been busy this past month with multiple stakeholder meetings and outreach to local organizations, and in doing so we have acknowledged all Elders - past, present and emerging - for laying the platform of collaboration that binds our community, and entrusting us as partners in the education and growth of our community's children. With that in mind, the following highlights are presented to our Community and Board by way of an update on District operations, as mapped against the Board's Strategic goals and objectives.

Domain: Family & Community Collaboration

Goal 1: Prioritize and implement intentional and purposeful partnerships.

The following represents a snapshot of the many initiatives and meetings we've participated in this month with community organizations and stakeholders:

MOA with NSB HEALTH: We're extremely pleased to advise the Community and the Board we have an executed agreement with NSB Health who will fund three therapeutic clinicians for our schools. Yesterday we held our first meeting with the NSB Health leadership and their first clinician who is already on slope and ready to start working in our schools. A huge thanks to NSB Health and the Mayor Patkotak for supporting this vital initiative.

SAFETY, SECURITY and STUDENT SUPPORT: As part of our ongoing focus on safety, security and student support, administration met with representatives from the Department of Juvenile Justice to better understand their roles and responsibilities and share questions. This meeting will be followed up by a meeting with DJJ, the NSBPD, the DA's office and school administrators at which we hope to discuss a range of issues including truancy and processes for managing student issues. This month NSBSD partnered with NSBPD for a North Slope Borough Community and School Safety Zoom presentation delivered by the *I Love U Guys Foundation* and focused on reviewing the district's response protocols for Hold, Secure, Lockdown, Evacuate, and Shelter situations. The virtual event was recorded and is available online for viewing.

MEETING with NVB: Reflecting the importance of the issues highlighted above, administration met this month with representatives of the native Village of Barrow and discussed how we can partner with them to support a new student and family mental health support initiative that they are rolling out, and also to discuss the recommencement of the Tribal Court which had such a positive impact on students.

TRILATERAL MEETING: This month our Board and Administration attended the second annual trilateral meeting with Iñisaġvik College and ICAS at which our shared MOA was affirmed and the assembled Board and Council members had rich discussions about student growth and development on the Slope. Indicative of this important partnership, we thank Iñisaġvik for offering a free Lifeguard Certification training to NSBSD employees and members of the community.

HONORARY CITATION: We are extremely proud to report that our Representative Robyn (Burke) Frier sponsored an honorarium citation recognizing the Uqautiluᅇa Iñupiatun Immersion Program and the hard work that Director Pili and her team have done to restart the program and bring immersion language back into the school. This program is a work in progress but its ongoing growth represents a commitment by this Board and all our staff to the importance of Iñupiaq language and culture in our schools.

There were many many more examples of partnerships this month as the cold weather created challenges in many communities and we send our huge thanks to many organizations including NSB Housing, NSB Public Works and ICAS for the strengthening relationships that support our students and communities.

Domain: Culturally Responsive Instruction

Goal 2: All students perform at or above grade level

SECONDARY FOCUS: The Instructional Team has been focusing heavily this month on preparing for the second stage of our curriculum and instruction reform. Having built a robust platform for our elementary students over the past three years which has returned remarkable growth, we are in a position to direct even more attention into the rebuild and revitalization of the secondary space. This will include increased instructional supports, coaching, and “on-track” guides for each of our required middle and high school courses. As we witnessed with our elementary reform, proficiency metrics will be central to mapping development and ensuring we keep students on track for growth and achievement.

Goal 3: All students are prepared for their pathway of choice post-high school

QLC CTE INTENSIVES: Qatqiññaᅇvik Learning Center hosted another two-week Career and Technical Education intensive in the past month - this time serving students from BHS, Kiita, and several village schools. Courses included Pathway to Cosmetology (where our own Ahlook Stackhouse was as a guest speaker sharing industry knowledge and scholarship opportunities), Introduction to Welding (where students earned dual credit through our partnership with Iᅇisaᅇvik College) and the Construction III course, where students completed the full build of a 10x10 shed with electrical wiring, demonstrating applied learning in framing and electrical installation aligned with skilled trades pathways.

VILLAGE CTE INTENSIVES: in addition to the CTE program at QLC, this past month saw welding and culinary intensives delivered in Nuiqsut, Ulᅇuniq, Atqasuk, and Nunamiut schools, expanding equitable access to hands-on career exploration and technical training.

SPRING CAREER FAIR: Planning for this year’s District wide event is a collaborative effort involving Student Services, QLC/CTE, Barrow High School staff, and industry and postsecondary partners including Iᅇisaᅇvik College, Excel Alaska, ConocoPhillips, Santos, ASRC Energy Services, Alaska Resource Education and NSB Health and other departments. The event will be held on Friday, April 17 with students from across the district invited to attend and be flown to Utqiaᅇvik for the week.

Goal 4: Graduate bilingual students

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY: The Inupiaq Education department continues strengthening systems to measure and support language proficiency development. Data from the four dialect versions of the Level 1 Iñupiaq Language benchmark assessment were compiled this month into three district-wide datasets focusing on questions, commands and house commands. Data dashboards have also been developed to allow district, school site, and grade level staff to access data and access individual student results to support and guide instructional planning.

Domain: Student Social & Emotional Wellbeing

Goal 5: Facilitate & maintain culturally, emotionally, & physically safe learning environments

STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES: As mentioned, we met with the first of 3 clinicians being funded by NSB Health yesterday and are excited to see that support in our schools shortly. The Huddle Up program has been providing Tele-Health mental health Services to our students and since commencing at the start of the new year have already reached 80% of capacity, indicating the value of the service and the need amongst our students.

BULLYING SURVEY: The results from the bullying survey should be finalized this month and will be reported to the Board at the April meeting. This survey is designed to receive feedback directly from students to ensure we're delivering the supports and enacting the policies and operational guidelines necessary to address this serious issue.

Domain: Staff Support & Professional Development

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

DEED RECOGNITION: The NSBSD Instructional Team created a robust MTSS (Multi-tiered Systems of Support) Manual last year, which we have used for training and shared with other districts who do not have capacity in-house to create their own. As such we were incredibly honored that the State Department of Education will now be using our manual as a starting place as they develop one for use state-wide. This is a reflection of the incredibly hard work the Instructional team have put in over many years, the commitment of the team in producing quality materials for our teachers and the leadership of Dr Santos.

RETENTION AND RECRUITMENT: As the nation enters the most intense period of teacher recruitment, every District in Alaska is struggling to find SPED teachers. At a recent meeting in Juneau the head of the teachers union identified SPED teachers as possibly the most difficult positions to fill in the State. Last year we introduced a retention/recruiting bonus for these highly sought after positions and in this meeting we are proposing to the Board an increase in the retention/recruiting bonus for Special Education teachers.

The Human Resources Department has also partnered with **Handshake**, a national university recruiting platform that connects employers with students and recent graduates from thousands of colleges and universities. This partnership will allow the district to promote career opportunities directly to education majors and emerging professionals, strengthening our pipeline of qualified candidates and expanding our national recruitment reach.

Financial & Operational Stewardship

Goal 7: Standardize high-functioning, efficient, student-focused operations

AUDIT PRESENTATION to the NSB ASSEMBLY: Altman Rogers presented our FY25 audited financial statements to the North Slope Borough Assembly on March 4th. The Superintendent and Finance Director Williams were pleased to be presenting a 3rd straight clean audit report to the NSB Assembly who expressed their appreciation for the work being done to improve outcomes for our students while maintaining fiscal accountability.

Meetings were also held this past month with site Principals and CSAC members (when available) to review the district's projected budget for FY27 and discuss requested site needs for FY27. Where CSAC representatives were not available we proceeded to meet with the Principals and will circle back with CSAC representatives on any sites that were missed.

DISTRICT WIDE LAPTOP REFRESH PLUS SAVINGS: This year the NSB through CIP committed \$1.5 million in CIP funds to support a laptop refresh for the District. To ensure a full refresh of student laptops the Board of Education approved additional monies from the General Fund also. However, due to incredibly fortunate timing during the procurement process, Mac

announced that a new MacBook Air with significantly better technology and at a much lower cost than the original is now available. This change has provided substantial cost savings for the District (over \$700,000) while still maintaining the district's commitment to a K-12 1:1 student device program and allowing us to refresh the entire fleet of teacher laptops as well.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

NSBSD teams traveled to the Alaska State Battle of the Books and every one of them did our District proud. A special shout out to all students and coaches across the District for their work leading up to State this year and an extra special shout out to the students and coaches who went to State!

Ałak School (Grade 3-4): 6th place out of 37 teams

Harold Kaveolook School (5th-6th grade) 33rd place out of 39 teams

Eben Hopson Middle School: 16th place out of 30 teams

Barrow High School: 6th place out of 24 teams total (There was a 4-way tie for 2nd place, so they actually had the third highest score, but placed 6th.)

In Basketball congratulations to all teams on their hard work this year. The 1A Basketball Regionals were held in Kaktovik with Nunamiut boys and girls prevailing and qualifying for State. Unfortunately, both teams lost their first two games and were eliminated from the tournament.

The 2A Regionals were held at Dimond HS March 5-7. Tikiġaq girls ended in 4th place and Tikiġaq boys took 2nd place to qualify for State. The Tikiġaq boys went to State as the 6th seed and placed 6th in the tournament.

The 3A Basketball Regionals were held in Kotzebue March 5-7. The girls were seeded #1 and won the Championship game. The boys were seeded #2 and finished 2nd to qualify for state. The 3A State Tournament begins this Wednesday.

The NYO Regional Tournament at BHS will take place on March 27-29. The top 2 in each of the 11 events could qualify for the State tournament in Anchorage on April 16-18.

End report DSV