

## Administrative Report

### Superintendent David Vadiveloo

Utuqqanaavut kisuiġukkitka – sivulliit utuqqanaallu, paŋmami utuqqanaagiravullu, utuqqanaaġuġumaaqtuallu. Quyanaaġitka paŋmamuraglaan aullatimmagit savaktivut ilĩñiaqtuagiravullu. Nalunaigunmigiga suli iñuuniaġuutilaaqput savaguutilaaqpullu nunaniñiñi Iñupiat. Iglititchirauvluta minuaqtuġvinjñik kamasuuttaġigikput ikayuiyumiñaqapta tamatkunani nunani.

Members of the Board and members of the North Slope community, let me start by saying Yay Hey Hey!! And gratitude to all the crews who are out on the ice or have been out – working to provide for our communities and continue our community’s strong whaling culture.

On our recent trip to Ulġniq for graduation I was reflecting on the words of Elder Rossman Peetok when asked about education and our children – to which he replied (as translated by Dr Jana Harcharek) that to be successful we must start with what a child is interested in, and then build on that. In that context its significant that as we prepare for next year we have been gifted with a complete culturally responsive overlay for our elementary CKLA reading curriculum. The overlay has been produced by Suaqpak Edna Ahmoagak and represents in practical educational terms what Rossman was speaking about. It also represents the critical next step in the implementation of a permanent place based education model on the North Slope.

This past month has also been filled with great sadness at the loss of young lives. We send our thoughts and prayers and strength to affected families and are reminded how important it is for our community and our schools to remain alert to signs that our students are struggling. .

In that context, we once again begin by acknowledging our Elders, past, present and emerging in this community and across the slope. We thank you all for passing this 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.

### **Domain: Family & Community Collaboration**

#### **Goal 1: Prioritize and implement intentional and purposeful partnerships.**

**CAREER PATHWAYS PARTNERSHIPS:** Qatqiññiaġvik Learning Center recently completed three exciting and successful Spring Intensive programs that relied on critical partnerships with higher education partners, local government, nonprofit organizations, and industry leaders. These programs included collaboration with:

- Ilisagvik College
- Iñupiat Heritage & Language Center (IHLC)
- UIC Science
- UIC Sand & Gravel
- North Slope Borough Wildlife Department
- Alaska Arctic Observatory & Knowledge Hub (AAOKH)
- Barrow Utilities & Electric Cooperative (BUECI)

- Arctic Education Foundation (AEF)
- ASRC Energy Services
- North Slope Borough Planning Department
- Mayor's Youth Advisory Council (MYAC)

We thank each and every one of these organizations for supporting the growth and development of our students as they follow meaningful training pathways for future employment.

LANGUAGE PROGRAM PARTNERSHIPS: The Inupiaq Education Department is collaborating with the Senior Center for the upcoming Iñupialgusisa May/June language intensive, creating opportunities for intergenerational language exchange. This program will see adult learners from the District, IHLC, ICAS/Qargi Academy, Iḷisaḡvik College, and AEF involved in intensive language instruction and learning delivered by District staff. IED has also been working with the Northwest Arctic, Kawerak, and Aqqaluk Trust on translation and development of the Indigenous Language Fluency Transfer System framework and materials which will support future growth of our language programs in schools.

NSB COLLABORATION: This past month, our communities and our staff were rocked by the loss of two young people. Our gratitude goes to NSB Health for sending multiple teams out to multiple sites across a 2 weeks span. The teams, which included the first of 3 NSB funded clinical therapists for our schools, provided important supports to our students and their families.

Our strong partnership with the North Slope Borough Mayor's Office, Capital Improvement Project Management (CIPM) team, and Public Works has also led to the renovation of the Barrow High School (BHS) home economics room. This effort will support the continued growth of the school's culinary program while also creating a functional space for community use during large public events like Kivgiq. The level of collaboration among all departments has been commendable, with a shared commitment to advancing the project on a fast-track timeline to ensure completion and availability prior to the start of the 2026–2027 school year.

### **Domain: Culturally Responsive Instruction**

#### **Goal 2: All students perform at or above grade level**

NWEA and mCLASS assessment windows across the district are coming to a close. Preliminary data indicates strong student growth, reflecting the continued dedication and hard work of students, teachers, and families. These early results are encouraging and suggest that instructional efforts across the district continue to positively impact student learning outcomes. The final data when received will be reported to the Board.

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

TUMITCHIAT SIVUNMUN UPDATE: A committee of teachers was convened and met over several weeks to refine and strengthen the 2026–2027 Tumitchiat Sivunmun period, with a clear focus on increasing student-centered learning opportunities. Through collaborative discussions, the committee reached a consensus that over the summer, a revised structure and comprehensive plan for the Tumitchiat Sivunmun period will be developed, prioritizing student-driven projects and authentic exploration experiences.

CTE & VOC ED: As mentioned, the Qatqĩññaġvik Learning Center Career & Technical Education Department recently completed three successful Spring Intensive programs (AMPED on Energy Camp, Heavy Equipment Operations Dual Credit Intensive, and Construction Trade Intensive). These programs required extensive collaboration local stakeholders and provided students with meaningful exposure to career pathways, workforce opportunities, exposure to industry professionals, technical skills training, postsecondary opportunities, and culturally relevant learning experiences connected directly to the North Slope region.

**Goal 4: Graduate bilingual students**

IÑUPIAQ LANGUAGE AND CURRICULUM RESOURCES: Suaqpak Edna Ahmoagak has completed a critical piece of curriculum reform work across this year and presented the district with a complete Culturally relevant curriculum overlay for the elementary k-5 language arts CKLA curriculum. Suaqpak is next working on elementary math curriculum overlays and then attention will turn to secondary core curriculum overlays.

MENTOR-APPRENTICE PROGRAM TOOLKIT: The Mentor-Apprentice Program Toolkit made major progress this month, with Units 1–9 finalized and additional curriculum editing underway. Audio transcripts were prepared and recordings completed to support the digital learning platform for this program.

**Domain: Student Social & Emotional Wellbeing**

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

COUNSELING: Our counselors spent the month focusing on intensive student intervention, academic recovery, and graduation readiness. Many services were delivered at the Tier 3, individualized level of support. Tier 2 small group instruction occurred at moderate levels, while Tier 1 classroom support was provided at lower, more distributed levels.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL: As mentioned it was a month where behavioral and responsive supports were required in urgent and crisis situations. Additional stakeholder support was required for referrals to outside services and whole of staff interaction and collaboration was a major component of coordinated student interventions.

Overall, services reflect a continued emphasis on individualized student support, collaboration among staff, and sustained efforts to support graduation and postsecondary readiness.

**Domain: Staff Support & Professional Development**

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

**RETENTION AND RECRUITMENT:**

Recruitment continues to be a challenge as teacher numbers across the nation shrink. However, each week we add valuable new members to our staff cohort. Our new HR Director Michael Brooks has arrived early on the slope to meet his team and begin reviewing the department ahead of his official start date on July 1. Initial areas of focus include recruitment and retention strategies, onboarding processes, staffing vacancies, employee support systems, certification and contract tracking, and alignment of HR practices with Board policy and Alaska education requirements.

May 2026

SCIENCE OF READING: Several teachers and administrators attended the Science of Reading Symposium in Anchorage, where they engaged in high-quality professional learning focused on evidence-based literacy practices. The symposium provided valuable resources and strategies that participants will bring back to support and strengthen instruction across the North Slope Borough School District.

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMING: IED staff participated in the Salish School of Spokane Immersion Symposium this month, gaining valuable insights to inform development of an Iñupiaq Language Fluency Transfer System and strengthen immersion instructional models. From this, the department is working on utilizing the ILFTS framework to build out into curriculum and instructional materials for student use as well as professional development and training programming for staff.

### **Financial & Operational Stewardship**

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

FOOD SERVICES: As we advised the Board in April, a State administrative review of our National School Lunch Program resulted in findings and required corrective action for the District to address. The District was notified on May 1, 2026 that our corrective actions from the audit had been received and the State has closed its administrative review. The State will schedule a follow-up Administrative review during the 2026-2027 school year and during today's meeting a number of other follow items relating to food services improvements will be addressed, including food services student survey for the 2026–2027 school year. These results have informed the development of the upcoming food Request for Bids (RFB) and supported the consolidation of menu offerings to better align with student preferences for breakfast and lunch.

TRANSPORTATION EFFICIENCIES: The Transportation Department is actively evaluating and implementing strategies to reduce fuel expenditures across all operations. This effort includes the issuance of new fuel cards with established monthly spending caps, as well as increased accountability measures for shared vehicle usage. In addition, the department is conducting a comprehensive review of vehicle idle time and investigating other possible inefficiencies related to fuel consumption within NSBSD.

FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND STATE REPORTING: The Business Office is deep into year-end closeout work, audit preparation and revising the District's travel SOP to better align with best practices and strengthen internal checks and balances throughout the travel process. The Finance Director will also present the FY 26-27 budget for Board approval at today's meeting.

DATA CENTER BACKUP POWER IMPROVEMENT (MAO): The district's main data center at the M&O facility is in the process of receiving a critical backup power solution. This is an interim implementation and is separate from the larger CIPM-funded generator project, which is still

May 2026

approximately two years out due to required foundational work (pilings installation scheduled for this summer, followed by a settling period before full construction can proceed).

This significantly improves the district's ability to maintain uptime and protect critical systems during extended power outages. It ensures continued access to essential services such as authentication, communication systems, and instructional platforms while we await completion of the permanent generator project.

## **Student**

## **Activities**

Twenty-five athletes from the North Slope attended the NYO State Meet in Anchorage from April 16-18. State representative student athletes came from Kali, Meade River, Alak, Tikigaq and BHS. Congratulations to all athletes for outstanding representation at a fiercely competitive event.

Big shout out to BHS Senior Samuel Arey from BHS who placed first in both the Toe Kick and Two Foot High Kick. Sam also placed second in the One-Foot High Kick and was also voted Male Athlete of the Event capping off a fantastic NYO career! BHS sophomore Liliana Simmonds-Rexford placed 3rd in the One-Hand Reach.

## **In closing**

We've reached the end of another wonderful year where our students have once again demonstrated their ability to grow above expectations and build pathways to the future. We congratulate our graduates and those who have been promoted. And we thank our families, teachers, staff and community members for their efforts to support our students as they achieve growth that has outperformed the state and reached unprecedented levels of proficiency for our district. Year on year growth for four years is no small feat and we wish our Principals, teachers and most building staff a well-deserved break over the summer. For most of my administration and our maintenance teams there is only a short break as we continue to prepare buildings, curriculum and programs in anticipation of another year of strong growth next school year. Thanks to all our Directors and their teams for your dedication and continual efforts to meet and exceed expectations, in the best interest of our students.

And finally to our Board I want to thank you for another year of continued support for programs and initiatives that are delivering meaningful, evidence-based results for our students. Your clear direction and Strategic Plan is greatly appreciated and ensures our operations align with the district mission and allow us to continue to push for high expectations across our schools. It is a privilege to serve our students and families and I would like to close by thanking you for that opportunity and for your support.

## **End report DSV**