

Administrative Report

Superintendent David Vadiveloo

Utuqqanaavut kisuiġukkitka – sivullit utuqqanaallu, paŋmami utuqqanaagiravullu, utuqqanaaġuġumaaqtuallu. Quyanaaġitka paŋmamuraglaan aullatimmagit savaktivut iliññaiaqtuagiravullu. Nalunaġuŋmigiga suli iñuuniaġuutilaaqput savaguutilaaqpullu nunanjiññi Iñupiat. Igliqtitchirauvluta miŋuaqtuġviññik kamasuuttaġigikput ikayuuyumiññaqapta tamatkunani nunani.

Members of the Board and community, as the first aġviqs of Spring start their journey through our region, our administration wants to acknowledge all Elders past, present and emerging, for passing on their knowledge to our students and our community. We thank the community for entrusting us as partners in the education and growth of their children. It is a responsibility we hold close to our hearts and commit to each time we step foot in our schools and buildings. And 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 our new Strategic goals and objectives.

Domain: Family & Community Collaboration

Goal: Prioritize and implement intentional and purposeful partnerships.

NSB, STAKEHOLDER & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS:

NSB BUDGET HEARING: Earlier this month the District presented its budget to the NSBSD Assembly and Mayor. We were pleased to report another year with a clean audit and of course the unprecedented growth and success of our students. We are extremely grateful to the Assembly and the Mayor for their support of the district and another year of successful collaboration, planning and open communication has resulted in confirmation that we will receive the funding required to maintain current services and further expand programs like vocational education, immersion and social emotional student support services through the support of the Mayor's supplemental grants.

ILISAURRIGUQTA & ASCF: The district had a very positive meeting this month with Arctic Slope Regional Corporation about strengthening pathways for teacher candidates. We are currently reviewing a joint proposal and look forward to finding more ways to train and support local candidates for teaching careers.

TUMITCHIAT SIVUNMUN COMMUNITY PROJECTS: The District continues to prioritize authentic community engagement through our *Tumitchiat Sivunmun* ("New Pathways to the Future") Community Service Projects, in which students actively contribute to and invest in their local communities. Examples of successful projects include: Organizing snow removal efforts to support elders and community members in need: Raising funds to purchase sleds for community use at the post office, increasing access and mobility for residents: Facilitating cross-age reading partnerships, strengthening both literacy development and peer relationships.

These experiences build student responsibility and civic identity while reinforcing meaningful, lasting connections between school and community.

Domain: Culturally Responsive Instruction

Goal: All students perform at or above grade level

CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE OVERLAYS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY: For several school years, Edna Ahmoagak has been working with the instructional teams to lead a project to produce a teacher-facing resource that sits over our core elementary reading program (CKLA). The overlays have been piloted this year and are now ready for district wide roll out. This is a critical development as these overlays will provide a culturally responsive overlay for the reading curriculum through local historical and cultural context. Similar overlays are being finalized for elementary math content and as we head into next year planning has begun for the same overlays to be produced for secondary curriculum, starting with English Language Arts

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

PATHWAYS TO EMPLOYMENT: Four students who completed Healthcare I and Healthcare II intensives at the Qatqiññaġvik Learning Center through this year were accepted into the Alaska Health Education Center (AHEC) Capstone Program, earning dual credit through (UAA). These students attended the Alaska HOSA State Leadership Conference, where they participated in leadership development, healthcare career exploration, and networking with healthcare professionals and postsecondary partners

The CTE Department continues to expand hands-on learning opportunities through career-focused intensives. Current and upcoming programs include:

Construction Trades Intensive – Tiny Home Project (Part 1) in partnership with IntellaHomes, where students begin building a tiny home while learning construction skills. Basic Small Engines (two 5-day intensives) where students learn engine operation, maintenance, troubleshooting, and repair. Amped on Energy (5-day intensive) in partnership with the Alaska Resource Agency, introducing students to energy production and careers in energy and utilities. Introduction to Heavy Equipment Operations Part I & II (10-day intensive), where students learn operating principles using heavy equipment simulators before gaining supervised hands-on experience.

Goal: Graduate bilingual students

MENTORS APPRENTICE PROGRAM EXTENSION: In another successful collaboration we met with IHLC leadership with month and extended the Iñupiaq Mentors Apprentice program funding to include payments for mentors. This will allow for an expanded summer intensive program for adult language learners who teach or wish to teach in our schools.

Domain: Student Social & Emotional Wellbeing

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

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL SERVICES: Huddle Up continues to provide Tele-Mental Health Services to our students. As we approach the end of the school year we are closing in on 100% of capacity. We are also starting to get requests from families for summer services so we are investigating at the feasibility of this. The uptake in this service once again underlines the need for a comprehensive social emotional and mental health support service in our community.

To that end we were advised yesterday that interviews for the additional 2 (of 3) NSB clinical therapists are underway and meetings with NSB Health are underway for placement and schedules in our schools.

Staff Support & Professional Development

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

RECRUITMENT & HIRING: Positive news in the HR department with the recent appointment of a new HR Director. Our new Director has vast experience in School District HR in the lower 48 and we are eagerly awaiting his arrival. While he is not scheduled to start on-slope until July 1, he will be coming on-slope in May to start onboarding with the team, to meet all our Principals and Directors and commence planning for next year.

In other positive news, a new food services manager has been appointed and has already commenced the process of reviewing our food orders to make them more reflective of student choice and reduce waste.

The recruiting landscape for teachers remains very challenging. Nationwide shortages continue to impact all districts with staff reductions and school closures a regular event. We are focusing our advertising in areas where school closures are occurring and targeting lower paying states. To date we've issued 10 new contracts for next year and there are 65 vacancies still – this is a similar situation to where we were at the same time last year and the year before.

SPED SERVICES: The \$7500 retention/recruiting bonus approved by the Board has resulted in a sharp reduction in vacancies for SPED teachers. While this is good news for SPED, many of the positions have been filled by internal transfers, which in turn will shift vacancy pressure to other departments.

Domain: Financial & Operational Stewardship

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

FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND REPORTING:

BUDGET: A budget revision for FY26 is presented at this meeting and after presenting to the Assembly, the FY27 budget is on track for presentation to the School Board during the May meeting. This year's budgeting process has involved a thorough review of existing programs with a focus on Board priorities and expenditures to ensure alignment with District needs and to make the most of available resources.

PRC and CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS: A successful presentation before the PRC committee has seen a slew of projects approved and a continuation of the increase in NSB funding being directed to capital projects in our schools. This years project approvals will total \$23M and will include the repair of the Alak School roof (\$10M), a further \$5M for Kaktovik, kitchen equipment replacements at multiple sites and much needed boilers. Director Broome and Coordinator Crooks presented a CIP update to the Board in the worksession and that is available in the packet.

NSLP AUDIT: The District underwent a DEED National Schools Lunch Project audit in October last year and the findings (contained in the packet) were shared with the Board during the work session. While a number of findings were made, all paper based corrections have already been made and in a recognition of the positive changes being made in the oversight of our food services area, DEED have agreed to conduct a new audit in October of this year.

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TEACHERS BARGAINING AGREEMENT: Bargaining between the North Slope Borough Education Association (NSBEA) and NSBSD has commenced, and the negotiation teams have met several times since the beginning of 2026 to start to work towards a tentative agreement on changes to the NSBEA/NSBSD agreement. It will likely be several months before the tentative agreement will be brought to the full Board of Education for review and ratification.

RUS GRANT & A/V UPGRADES: After successfully securing another \$1,000,000 USDA Rural Utilities Service Distance Learning & Telemedicine (DLT) Grant to modernize A/V systems across multiple village schools, an RFP was publicly posted, and after a full competitive process, a vendor has been selected. The recommendation is included in this month's board packet. This round of improvements will see upgrades at Kali, Nuiqsut, Atqasuk, Nunamiut and also IPK.

In closing

Another year is almost over and our students have shown once again their brilliance and willingness to learn when our instruction, our curriculum and our partnerships with community and stakeholders align to support them. Like all districts, we still face serious challenges in recruiting staff but our initiatives and learning expectations are delivering strong growth and achievement for our students.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our students for their persistence and hard work all year. To our families, carers, community and staff we say thanks for providing the conditions for learning that our children need to thrive. To our transportation team who collect students and deliver them safely back home; to site administrative teams, office staff, cooks, custodians, paraprofessionals and volunteers; to teachers and Principals, contractors and consultants and to all our department staff, directors and our wonderful CO team; I say Quyanaqpak!!! Thanks to your tireless work we're able to implement the mission of the Board and strive for excellence. And of course to our Board – thank you for continuing to provide clear direction, measured governance, always modeling the Iñupiaq values for us in the way you lead and guide our District and support our staff. We have turned this District around and our students are showing us the results in their growth and achievement. We stand strong together, proud to work and live on the lands of the Iñupiaq, working every day to help build a strong future for all. Atautchimukta asi Pisigilugit Qitunġavut – together and in the best interests of our children!

End report DSV