

Administrative Report

Superintendent David Vadiveloo

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Utuqqanaavut kisuiġukkitka – sivulliit utuqqanaallu, paŋmami utuqqanaagiravullu, utuqqanaaġuġumaaqtuallu. Quyanaaġitka paŋmamuraglaan aullatimmagit savaktivut iġiññaqtuagiravullu. Nalunaigunmigiga suli iñuuniaġuutilaaqput savaguutilaaqpullu nunanjiñni Iñupiat. Igliqtitchirauvluta minuaqtuġviñnik kamasuuttaġigikput ikayuiyumiñaqapta tamatkunani nunani.

Members of the Board and community, its been a busy start back after Christmas with basketball and NYO in full swing, a Board retreat, NSB joint meeting and Principals retreat. Administration is excited to be reporting and preparing to post the data that shows the tremendous growth of our students. The hard work and dedication of our students reflects the strength and sacrifices of their Elders, and all that they did and do for our community. For that, our district acknowledges and thanks those Elders and our community for entrusting us as partners in the education and growth of their children. And with that, 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 1: Prioritize and implement intentional and purposeful partnerships.

As we continue our Board directed district wide focus on language revitalization, the Uqautiluŋa Iñupiatun parent immersion program provided 25.5 hours of instruction from October through January, supporting foundational language skills and home language use for parents. Two fall potlucks were also held to celebrate family learning, including one event where eight parents taught mini Iñupiaq lessons to the wider community.

NYO Big Bob games: A huge thanks to the Mayor Patkotak's office for sponsoring this years 2nd annual NYO Big Bob games. Tikiġaq, Aġak, Atqasuk, Kali and Barrow schools sent teams and teams from Kenai and Seward also attended. There were around 50 total athletes that competed in 11 events over 3 days. It was another great event for all involved and a perfect warmup for the Regional tournament on March 27-29 at BHS.

NSB joint meeting: In January the Board and Administration held a productive and positive joint meeting with the NSB Assembly. The meeting allowed the District to showcase for the Assembly the incredibly exciting oral fluency and AKStar data that shows unprecedented growth for our students. We also shared the outstanding attendance growth data from first semester and the year on year growth in positive school climate and connectedness data. The data will be posted on the District website this week and is a cause for great celebration of the hard work that our students, teachers and

families have been putting in. We thank all the community members who've expressed their excitement at their student's growth.

NSB Health MOU: The much anticipated MOU with NSB Health has been finalized and we're now just waiting for execution. This agreement will see 3 new dedicated positions funded by the NSB for students and the good news is that one clinical therapist has already been identified by NSB Health.

Iñupiaq classroom rugs: The Mayor's Office is also supporting the design and distribution of custom Iñupiaq classroom rugs for all elementary classrooms across the NSBSD. These rugs will serve as culturally rich focal points for instruction and community storytelling.

Iļisaġvik Lifeguard Certification: This past December, the District partnered with Iļisaġvik College to offer free Lifeguard certification training to NSBSD employees and members of the community. We thank Iļisaġvik for their support of this collaborative effort to train community members hoping to work in village pools and the BHS pool. Certification classes will be conducted at the end of February 2026 and then the District will commence a phased re-opening of the BHS pool to prioritize student use during the school day, followed by progressive openings for public access - and we look forward to all the community support and volunteerism we can get to keep it open as much as possible.

Domain: Culturally Responsive Instruction

Goal 2: All students perform at or above grade level

As mentioned earlier we will post the stellar growth results of our students for all to cheer this week but suffice to say, our student's grade 3-9 AKStar results have outperformed the state of Alaska in their growth toward proficiency and we have tripled - that's right *tripled* - from 18% to just under 60% the K-3 oral fluency proficiency in the past 3 years.

Battle of the books: Big shout out to all students who participated in the Battle of the Books this year. All students did a wonderful job reading and participating and representing their schools and grade levels and we are so proud of all of them for their reading growth! Winners going to State will be IPK for Kindergarten and 1st grade, Alak school 2nd and 3rd/4th grade, Kaveolook school 5th/6th, HMS and also BHS.

Federal NAEP (National Assessment of Academic Progress): NAEP testing is underway at specific sites for grades 4 and 8. Students are assessed in either ELA or Math this year. Each year the Federal Government identifies sites and a random selection of students for NAEP testing nationwide. The data is used to determine the overall academic health of the country in public schools. Our identified sites this year are Hopson Middle School, Ipalook Elementary, Nunamiut, Harold Kaveolook School, and Kali School.

Legislative fly-in: Student participation and student voice at the legislative fly-in at Juneau is a highlight of the annual trip to the capitol and this year was no exception. Student Board representatives John Agiak from Kaktovik and Faith Brower from Utqiaġvik

attended and spoke powerfully about mental health and support for our schools. They will be reporting to the Board today.

Literacy Supports: Although we're seeing strong growth, we're still facing an uphill battle with recruitment and as a result we've turned to temporary instructional supports like Proximity Learning. This model has certified teachers providing high-quality instruction remotely, while students have in-class facilitators to maintain consistent instructional routines. This is a temporary solution as we continue to recruit but it is also a reflection of the multiple challenges of national teacher shortages, State funding that hasn't kept up with inflation and the Alaskan retirement system which is making recruitment and retention hard for all Districts.

Robotics: Six schools competed in the Regional Robotics competition in January. HMS Robowolves came out on top and will represent NSBSD at the State competition held in Anchorage this weekend. Meade River will also go to State to compete in the Robot Game competition. Congratulations to all teams for their coding and programming excellence!

Final results:

Championship Award	Hopson Middle School Robowolves
Robot Game Award	Meade River RoboEagles
Innovation Project Award	Ipalook Elementary Cyber Spirit of the North
Robot Design Award	Alak School Cyber Huskies
Perseverance Award	Trapper Bots
Core Values Award	Harold Kaveolook RoboRams
Coach of the Year	Ty Graham- Alak School

Kali and Nuiqsut school challenges: The district is navigating infrastructure challenges that are impacting learning at two sites. At Nuiqsut, the ongoing issue with a sewage smell has become worse and resulted in the closure of the secondary wing. CO and the site have worked to implement a temporary class reassignment to ensure students are not sitting in the affected wing. Maintenance works are ongoing.

At Kali school, the town's sewage issues have resulted in the closure of the school. After 6 days of missed school and increasing community concern about learning loss, the Administration and site Principal agreed on a remote online learning offering. This program commenced on Friday and has been successful in getting students reconnected with learning. Assessment of the issues at Kali by NSB and NSBSD is also ongoing and no firm date for the situation to be resolved has been determined.

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

Spring career fair: Planning is underway for this event and this year will be a truly collaborative event. The planning committee includes our student services department, QLC/CTE, BHS staff, and representatives from Iḷisaġvik College, Excel Alaska, ConocoPhillips, Santos, ASRC Energy, and Alaska Resource Education. The event will be held on Wednesday March 25. As in prior years, students from across the district will be invited to attend and flown into Utqiaġvik for the week.

QLC intensives: QLC is also preparing for their next round of intensives. There will be five courses running over the two week session; this will be the largest number of courses offered concurrently, providing students more options than ever.

Goal 4: Graduate bilingual students

As mentioned, the Uqautiluna Iḷupiatun parent immersion program: provided 25.5 hours of instruction from October through January and we are busy planning for next years support program for adult language speakers.

New high school Iḷupiaq Language courses: These are in development, providing four semesters of grammar, oracy, and applied language practice. These will expand student pathways for language study and contribute toward bilingual graduation readiness.

The Iḷupiaq Early Readers Series: Manuscripts are nearing completion. Storybook manuscripts are being finalized, and development is well underway for informational texts and teacher guides. To support this series, an art intensive is scheduled at the Qatqiññaġvik Learning Center where high school students will illustrate selected storybooks for publication.

The Iḷupiaq Fine Arts Program is holding intensives across the district in February:
Kali School: 30 students created fur hats. **Hopson Middle School:** 82 seventh-grade students created ayuktaq (calf skin balls). **Ipalook Elementary Kindergarten:** Participated in culturally aligned “sewing” activities as part of the **Itaakuk Goes to Niġliq CBU**

These efforts reflect the department’s goal to embed cultural learning in all grade levels and offer meaningful, hands-on instruction to support both language and identity development.

Domain: Student Social & Emotional Wellbeing

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

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL SERVICES:

As mentioned, Student Services has been working with the Superintendent’s office and Integrated Behavior Health (NSB IBH) to establish an MOA and hire three full-time mental health clinicians to meet the needs of students on the North Slope in the service area of IBH.

Bullying survey: In line with the Boards directives, notice of a bullying survey has been communicated to all parents and this survey for all students district wide will be held in 2 weeks. Data will be communicated to the Board at the next meeting.

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Social emotional wellbeing and interventions: Counselors intervened in 13 urgent or crisis situations in our schools this month and submitted five referrals to District Student Services for students requiring specialized evaluation or support. These interventions are crucial in providing timely stabilization and continuity of care for students experiencing acute challenges.

Domain: Staff Support & Professional Development

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

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

Attuned: (our contractor for literacy PD and coaching through the CLSD grant) began a 3 session literacy PD series on February 11. These high quality trainings are being provided for all Middle and High School teachers during PLC time. The focus is on developing and supporting vocabulary and academic language across the content areas.

Cultural Inservice: Planning for spring cultural inservices continued across the district. For the first time, Utqiagvik schools will host separate inservices by school to allow for smaller, hands-on sessions. Village site planning is being supported in collaboration with local leads and elders.

DW Inservice: During the January district inservice, ILTs received targeted training in small group instruction, instructional pacing, and grading practices. New ILTs received tailored coaching, while PLCs focused on using data to inform instruction and improve learning outcomes.

Principal Retreat: Principals have just completed 2 days with the departments to review our first semester growth and review operational issues to strengthen the strategic plan and site delivery.

RETENTION AND RECRUITMENT:

Recruitment: We have a new Human Resources Recruiting and Certification Manager who is developing a strategic plan to recruit candidates who best fit our needs and align with our mission and vision.

School Safety: In January 2026, all NSBSD staff participated in training delivered by the I Love U Guys Foundation. This training focused on crisis response and community and school safety. The trainers provided staff with updated best practices and a structured framework to enhance our district-wide emergency response protocols. In partnership with NSBPD the District will support a zoom delivery of the training for the community on February 24th.

As a result of the training, principals and teachers have taken a more defined, hands-on approach in reviewing classroom configurations, refining response procedures, and increasing the frequency and quality of practice drills. These efforts have emphasized clarity of roles, improved situational awareness, and reinforced consistent implementation of safety protocols across all school sites. In addition, the School safety committee has been reconvened also.

Financial & Operational Stewardship

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

FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND STATE REPORTING:

The FY27 Preliminary Budget: was shared with the North Slope Borough Assembly at the end of January during the joint meeting.

Site and CSAC budget discussions: As we have done each year, in the coming month we will be meeting with each of our school principals and Presidents of CSAC's to discuss site needs for the following year.

Audit presentation: March 4th will be the NSBSD Audit presentation to the Assembly.

USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Grant: The next release stage of this grant is a significant milestone for the district and allows the IT department to proceed with the next phase of Audio/Video modernization. These upgrades will strengthen distance learning, improve instructional delivery, and enhance engagement for families and community members across the North Slope.

Nuiqsut school: The unresolved sewage smell at Nuiqsut is being further investigated with the following actions: walls and roof cavities are being investigated and where required, opened up to remove and replace cracked and broken glass venting pipes that were installed during the last major renovation years ago. In addition, lift stations have been replaced and pumps are being replaced this week.

Kali School: Dangerously cold weather conditions have prevented maintenance on the sewage from proceeding and now the water to the school is also affected. A meeting with the NSB is being held today to discuss next steps in this increasingly difficult situation.

Student activities: Basketball:

11 teams are playing 1A basketball this season. Tikigaq took first place in the Rex Rock tournament and both teams are having a strong year again - they will host Kotzebue on February 27/28 as both teams honor their seniors. 2A Regionals will be held at Dimond HS in Anchorage again this year on March 5-7. BHS hosted the Karl Ahgeak tournament and the 3rd annual Ayuktaqta "Lets Play Ball" Tournament in January. Thanks again to the NSB Mayors office who funded travel for our middle school teams on the same weekend. We had a total of 23 teams playing over 3 days at HMS and BHS. Thanks to all our staff and teams and families for a great weekend. In 1A Kaktovik will host the regional tournament on February 26-28.

In closing: We continue to move forward with the Boards Strategic Plan. Growth and change cause excitement for many and some anxiety to others. But the results we're seeing for our students provide us with the certainty that the plan set out by the Board is the right one and is delivering outcomes to ensure our students have choice moving into the future.

End report DSV