

To: Kuspuk School District School Board
From: Emily Vanderpool, Curriculum and Instruction
Re: Board Meeting Report
Meeting Date: November 10th, 2020

November 4th-6th District-wide In-service

I am happy to report that the November Virtual in-service was a success. All certified staff were able to attend the 3-day in-service virtually, from their own classrooms. Although we faced a few tech challenges at times between weather/internet and getting everyone on each Zoom Meeting, overall things went very well. This in-service was designed to address the greatest needs of our Students & Teachers. Looking at our test scores it is apparent that our greatest need is to increase student achievement in reading/literacy. A majority of our students are not reading at grade level, so we spent a lot of time focusing on supplemental reading programs to help all of our teachers give our students more opportunities for reading across grade levels and subject areas.. I have included the table below to better illustrate what sessions were offered during November in-service. .

Sessions offered:

ELA Instruction	Cross-Content Session	Social-Emotional Learning	Tech	Special Ed	System Topics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Practices in Reading using the Accelerated Reader Program K-12 • MyOn Reader Program & MyOn News Program for K-12 Reading instruction • Literacy Routines/Centers for Instructional Aides K-5, 6-12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response to Intervention (RTI) for Grades 6-12 • Response to Intervention (RTI) for Grades K-5 • Teacher Clarity Workshop - using learning intentions & success criteria to maximize student learning • Excel Alaska Program offerings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Resilience in Students • Teaching Self-regulation techniques to students in need of Behavioral/emotional support interventions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blended Learning with iPads for Grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8 • Blended Learning with MacBooks for Grades 6-12 • Student Device Management for iPads & Macbooks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SpEd Referral process • SpEd Teacher training using new systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher Evaluation - Honing our skills to be the best we can be in the classroom. • Response to Intervention Expectations • COVID Safe Classrooms - Teacher Panel • Introduction to Gifted Services, and Enrichment rooms • Site Meetings

Accelerated Reader District-Wide Incentive

All classrooms across the district have been invited to participate in a district-wide Reading incentive for the remainder of the quarter (November 16th-December 18th). The incentive requires teachers to set a goal for each student using the AR program. The goal will include reading books at the student’s grade level at least 20 minutes per day, and passing reading comprehension quizzes at 85% or higher after finishing the books. Classes who participate and are successful in meeting their goals can earn a popcorn party (75%

goal achievement) or a Hound House Pizza Party (90% goal achievement). This incentive is to kick off our district-wide use of the AR program, and to get all our students reading! Look for more challenges happening next semester!

Grants

On October 28th, the District Leadership Team attended a virtual workshop to get reacquainted with the different components of the AK Comprehensive Literacy Development Grant. Luckily the state is allowing us to carryover unspent funds from last School year, since we were cut short in the spring. Lesi has been working diligently on implementing the different components, including starting Family Literacy Nights, coaching staff, helping with Professional Development and searching for programs/materials that meet our current needs. We have a lot more planned for the school year, and are making literacy a focus in all our district planning.

I have also been working with principals to get all School Improvement documentation submitted so we may begin working on school improvement plans. We were pleasantly surprised with the amount of carryover money awarded to us for the current year and have big plans at all CSI/TSI sites for improvement efforts—if we can just stay in school long enough to implement them! Kalskag schools will continue to implement the explicit reading interventions that helped them to achieve terrific gains last year, while also adding some new classroom technology to really enhance learning opportunities for students. Johnnie John will be focusing on improving their Response to Intervention program to make sure the individual needs of each student are met. They have been able to hire a full-time reading interventionist with their improvement money. Aniak Jr. Sr. High School is on their first year of the grant, and they will be looking to implement reading strategies to help improve reading scores across the board. Their plan also includes improvements to classroom technology, as well as content-specific literacy materials to help improve instruction and student engagement. George Morgan Sr. High will be using funds to purchase Career & Technical Education program materials to increase Vocational Education opportunities for students, and hopefully in turn will increase attendance & graduation rate.

ELA Committee Updates

Our next Zoom Meeting is scheduled for December 3rd & 4th. At this meeting we will review additional data, including results from an all district staff survey, and narrow our program choices down to 3-5 for further review. We will also develop/modify evaluation tools to be used for the programs we are reviewing.

Literacy Coach Update from Lesi Anderson

- The first family literacy night activities were sent out to all K-5 Teachers on or around October 21st. Here is the participation data from the first activity: AMNES (8/46 = 17%), JJSS (3/10 = 30%), GMS (4/12 = 33%) this is the only data that has been sent so far. I would appreciate any feedback and suggestions, especially in the area of community communication about the event. Family participation numbers are low.
- The Monthly Family Literacy Night Winners for the sites that reported were as follows: **AMNES**- Ronnie Vanderpool, Sierra Lang, **JJSS**- Ivy Sakar, Phillip Phillips, **GMS** - Lydia Gusty, Caressa Zaukar

- FLN books have still not arrived, so it looks like November's FLN@Home will have selections printed from the copier again. Shippers have tracked boxes, and they seem to be at the bottleneck in Anchorage awaiting a plane. Shippers in Aniak tell me that right now, mail is taking priority over other boxes. In the month of November FLN materials will be available for students in grade K-8.
- Waterford Upstart for 4 year old pre-school - Several families are participating in this free program, but overall district numbers were low. Waterford shared that the family phone numbers were a problem. Parents shared that they were told they were not eligible; Waterford says that everyone in our villages is eligible simply because of our location. Families that actually followed through received items and are participating. If we have similar conditions next year, I think we should invite families to register with Waterford alongside a school representative online, so that initial information is accurate and first communications are clear.
- I have literacy coaching sessions with 2 staff members set up this month. The InService training with Upriver aides was started this month; hopefully I will be able to continue sessions with them. Training is focused on small group methods that teach comprehension skills. There will be specific targets to accomplish with different age groups.
- Between Covid and weather, I have only visited 2 sites outside of Aniak this month.
- Contact with 2 possible trainers for January inservice has been made; one is a specialist in writing across the curriculum with indigenous populations around America. The other is a trainer specializing in use of Mac tools for literacy goals in the classroom.