

REPORT TO THE SWRS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Educating our future...



"You learn at your best when you have something you care about and can get pleasure in being engaged in."

--Howard Gardner

"A shared vision is not an idea...it is rather, a force in people's hearts...at its simplest level, a shared vision is the answer to the question 'What do we want to create?'"

--Peter Senge

Board of Education

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David J. Piazza, Superintendent

Staffing

The District welcomes 11 new staff members to their respective school sites. LeEsia and Ryan O'Sullivan from Belfair, Washington will be teaching in Aleknagik. The Koliganek School will be joined by Jessica St. Louis from Olympia, Washington who will be teaching 2nd-3rd grade and Special Education. Katrina Campbell from Hazel Green, Alabama will be teaching 6th-8th grade Language Arts and Kelli Hammond from Meridian, Idaho will be teaching High School Special Education in Manokotak. The "Chief" Ivan Blunka School welcomes Charles Becker from Anchorage, Kattie Dufey from Gig Harbor, Washington, and Mollia White from Aniak, Alaska. Katie will be teaching 1st grade. Charles will be teaching 4th-5th grade. Mollia will be teaching High School Language Arts. Nancy Bell from Kyle, Texas will be teaching 4th grade and Belynda Weideman from Forks, Washington will be teaching Special Education at Togiak. Kyle Schneider joins the District Office staff from Koyuk, Alaska as the District's PowerSchool Student Support Services Specialist.



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Alaska School Leadership Institute (ASLI):

The District participated again this year in the Alaska School Leadership Institute (ASLI) held in Anchorage May 29th – June 1st. All seven of the Site Administrators were in attendance, as well as, two of the District's Assistant Principals, one classroom teacher enrolled in the aspiring principal's endorsement program at UAA, the four district office instructional Directors and Superintendent Piazza. The institute's focus was on looking at what leaders really do to transform their organizations. Following John Kotter's framework for organizational change, the participants studied and practiced Kotter's Eight Steps Toward Transforming an Organization by 1) Establishing a Sense of Urgency; 2) Building a Powerful Guiding Coalition; 3) Creating a Vision; 4) Communicating the Vision; 5) Empowering Others to Act on the Vision; 6) Planning For

and Crating Short Term Wins; 7) Consolidating Improvements and Producing Still More Change; and 8) Institutionalizing New Approaches.

The institute was organized by the Alaska Staff Development Network as part of their Rural Alaska Principal Preparation and Support (RAPPS) project. Dr. Al Bertani, Lexie Domaradzki, Julia Payne-Lewis and Gary Whiteley served as the ALSI Instructional Team and primary presenters. The workshop was designed to build on the previous three ASLI institutes, but included new themes: What actions leaders take to transform their organizations; How leaders help their organizations survive and thrive when leading change; and When leaders decide to exercise authority and/or influence the initiate and sustain change.



Visioning & Goal Setting

The District Instructional Leadership Team comprised of the Directors, Steve Noonkesser, Jon Clouse, Robin Gray, Esther Ilutsik, Lee Ann Andrew and Superintendent Piazza participated in a two-day visioning/goal setting workshop to review and utilize and build upon the skills presented during ASLI. The team met to discuss and implement aspects of Kotter's change process. The team analyzed student Standards Based Assessment (SBA) data, Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) data, and student attendance data to begin to formulate a sense of urgency and to establish instructional goals for the district. The team developed the starting point for establishing short term wins that can be accomplished within the schools near the beginning of the school year. The ground work was established for meeting with the principals to expand the guiding coalition.



Superintendent Summer Meeting

The Alaska Association of School Administrators (AASA) and the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) held their annual Summer Meeting in Juneau on July 29th-30th. On Sunday, discussions and sessions held at the Tlingit and Haida Vocational Training & Resource Center included: the future of the Alaska Learning Network (AkLN); AASB Board of Director Membership Bylaws Election changes; and Senate Bill (SB) 119 Interscholastic Eligibility presented by Gary Baldwin, Superintendent Lower Kuskokwim School District and Gary Matthews, Director of the Alaska School Activities Association (ASAA).

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The meetings continued on Monday at the Department of Education's offices. Commissioner Hanley welcomed the superintendents and provided information regarding the new Alaska Standards for Language Arts and Mathematics; the future of state-wide assessments and the changes that will need to occur by 2016; the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS); Early Childhood programs provided by the state; changes to the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) application scoring system; the Higher Education Career Readiness Task Force recommendations including the need to tie in the Alaska Standards for Culturally Responsive Schools; and the Coaching Boys Into Men initiative. Additional sessions that Superintendent Piazza was able to participate in included: Teacher/Educator Quality & the ESEA Waiver; ESEA Waiver-Accountability Options; Literacy Blueprint & Early Learning Options; and Funding Issues. Julia Martin the Legislative Director with the law firm of Brustein & Manasevit in Washington D.C. provided an legislative update regarding the effects that will be felt on school district budgets from Sequestration at the federal level. Sequestration is the process where automatic cuts across all federal spending programs are made. While some low income programs are exempt (such as Social Security, Medicaid, TANF, and child nutrition programs), most Department of Education programs and defense spending programs are not. Education spending may be reduced by 3.6 billion dollars. These cuts are not expected to affect this fiscal year, but will impact FY 2014 budgets.

Fall Inservice

Similar to recent years, the Site Administrator's inservice was held on August 8th-9th. Dr. Gary Whiteley, the Project Director of the Alaska Administrative Coaching Project, worked with the principals, lead teachers, and assistant principals on effective instructional leadership techniques. This work included the exploration of the text "A Teachers' Guide for Observing and Coaching One Another" and included discussion and practice in peer observation and building Professional Learning Communities. Additionally, the group utilized current SWRS adopted curricular materials to review classroom assessment practices and learned strategies to develop "good" assessment items.

Lexie Domaradzki returned again this year via video conferencing to continue the District's focus on Using Data for Improvement. This year's discussions focused on



implementing and utilizing the reports for the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment that was piloted last Spring and will be fully administered to all students K-12 this Fall, Winter and Spring.

Finally, the district and site administrative Leadership Team reviewed and worked on following Kotter's change strategies that had been introduced at the Alaska School Leadership Institute. The team formulated goals to focus on developing a Comprehensive Instructional Plan; working to improve Student Engagement; Revitalizing the Yup'ik Studies program; developing a Post-Secondary Transition program; ensuring that students are Reading on Grade Level by the End of Second Grade; and revitalizing and expanding Vocational Education opportunities for students.

The new teacher's inservice sessions ran Friday and Saturday, August 10th and 11th. This year's sessions continued previous years' efforts to acquaint new staff to the District, as well as, to rural Alaska and the Southwest Region. New staff members had the opportunity to see a successful subsistence catch of salmon, and learned the proper techniques for cleaning, cutting and hanging the fish. The weather cooperated this year to allow for an evening on the beach and staff had a chance to enjoy fresh salmon cooked on a campfire. A large group of the new teachers were also able to jump into several setnet skiffs and took a ride down the coast toward Coffee Point to see the local fishing areas.



On Sunday, August 12th, all of the returning certificated staff and one classified instructional aide, arrived in Dillingham. The staff participated in the three-day District-Wide Inservice. A major focus this year was on the implementation of the newly adopted Science Curriculum. Cheryl Cooper, Gary

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Cooper, and Sandi Schultz, trainers with the Alaska Science Consortium, worked with the Kindergarten through fifth grade teachers. Additionally, the district literacy team comprised of Lida Casper, Shannon Clouse, Deb Endicott, Pam Johnson, Evelyn Kleinke, and Kirsten Tesch provided additional instruction in utilizing the materials and strategies for Reading Mastery. The sixth through twelfth grades teachers participated in sessions grouped by curricular area to develop common course pacing guides as well as common end of semester assessments.

Under the leadership of Robin Gray and Esther Ilutsik, the Special Education and Yupik Studies teachers were able to meet, discuss, and learn specific information for their respective programs. Fanny Parker, Anu Wysocki, and Nancy Sharp assisted with the planning and presentation of integrating the use of local plants into each of the district's classrooms to build on Placed-Based Educational efforts.

Other topics covered during the inservice included an introduction to the MAP Assessment presented by Corey Evans and updates to the Internet Safety and Acceptable Use Policy presented by Les Parks. A highlight of the inservice included a joint Barbeque held between the staff of Dillingham City Schools and Southwest Region Schools.



Adequate Yearly Progress

On August 13th the State released the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) statistics. As indicated in their press release sent out: “of 507 Alaska public schools, 236 schools – or 46.5 percent – made adequate yearly progress in the 2011-2012 school year under the federal No Child Left Behind Act”.

The release further indicated that “Alaska public schools demonstrated some positive results: Seventy-one schools that did not reach their targets in the 2010-2011 school year sufficiently improved to meet the targets in 2011-2012; Eight other schools that had struggled in the past have now made adequate yearly progress for two consecutive years and no longer face consequences under No Child Left Behind; The statewide graduation rate for the 2011-2012 school year is 69.39 percent, 1.39 percentage points above the previous year. In the 2011-2012 school year, 7,180 public school students graduated with a high school diploma.”

The William “Sonny” Nelson School (Ekwok), “Chief” Ivan Blunka School (New Stuyahok), and Twin Hills Schools met AYP for all 31 categories. The Aleknagik and Koliganek Schools made AYP for Language Arts.

Awards

The following staff were recognized for longevity awards for their time working at Southwest Region Schools:

5 Years of Service	10 Years of Service	Fifteen Years of Service	20 Years of Service
Mary Walcott - Ekwok	Lisa Andrew - New Stuyahok	Esther Ilutsik - District Office	Carrie Itulmulria - Manokotak
Genevieve Kapatak - Koliganek	Jasper Andrews - Togiak	David Piazza - District Office	Lucy Andrews - Togiak
Mary Ann Mochin - Manokotak	Melissa Moede - Ekwok		
Justin Gumlickpuk - New Stuyahok	Kirk Kofford - Manokotak		
Nick Gust - New Stuyahok	Corey Evans - District Office		
Richard Togiak - Togiak			
Monte Murphy - District Office			
Aileen Walsh - District Office			

Each Spring the District solicits candidates for three Employee of the Year awards. The following individuals were selected for additional recognition:

Instructional Aide of the Year	Classified Employee of the Year	Teacher of the Year
Melody Noden - Aleknagik	Aaron Frost - Togiak	Kirk Kofford - Manokotak



Instruction & Information Systems

Steve Noonkesser, Director

As always, fall is a busy time as we open our schools and prepare for another good year.

Science Curriculum

This fall staff has been working hard to get new science materials adopted by the board ready to go out to sites and into students' hands. Over 100 tubs of science materials were organized by a group of teachers who came in a week early to work with Deb and Shannon preparing for inservice.

We will be using the AKSCI.org program for our Elementary Curriculum. Within this program are Alaska referenced, GLE supported lessons designed to bring hands-on learning to elementary classrooms. Supplies and materials for those lessons were purchased and placed in the tubs for teachers. Each lesson has a strong literature

component using many stories from children's literature that has direct relevance to living in Alaska.

The schedule set aligns all schools doing Life Science for about nine weeks in the fall and then during the winter months working on the Physical Science curriculum. The spring semester is the best season to complete the Earth Science curriculum and take advantage of the sunny, warmer days in April and May for outdoor learning opportunities.

During the August All Staff Inservice, teachers participated in training with two Alaska Science Consortium members from Fairbanks, in a day long workshop showcasing the actual lessons teachers will be using in their classrooms. It was

Instructional Support Team



Shannon Clouse
Media Specialist



Deb Endicott
Instructional Support
Specialist



Corey Evans
Computer-Aided
Instruction Specialist



Les Parks
Technology Coordinator

a fun packed day where we all collaboratively learned more about the program and tip/tricks of offer quality science education to our students.

Fall Inservice

Fall Inservice this year centered around elementary literacy, our new science curriculum and effective planning for instruction at the upper grade levels. Grade 7-12 staff across the district met as subject area teams for two days to create a common set of expectations for students and common assessments to insure that all SWRS students are receiving comparable educational opportunities and the content of courses across the district is similar at each grade level in each content area.

Technology

The technology department has been predominantly involved in preparing for the start of the 2012-2013 school year. As of this report, the district has just completed the inservice series that begins our year. Aside from general support, the department was responsible for several specific technology related portions of the in-service.

Equipment

All technology equipment issued to staff must be signed out on a district form. This year site administrators have been issued iPads and used them for the first time at in-service at their professional development sessions with Dr. Gary Whiteley on identifying and supervising effective instruction in the classroom. This issue is part of our efforts to begin complying with new evaluation and supervision requirements coming from the state and federal departments of education.

CIPA compliance

This year the Federal Government has sent out a few changes the Child Internet Protection Act (CIPA) some of the changes required that the district make some changes to our Acceptable Use Policy (AUP), which must be signed by all users of the district provided network from superintendent to students. Copies of the document must be kept on file for compliance with the act. The technology department discussed those changes with staff and began the process of obtaining the signed forms from staff that were present.

Student assessment

This year the district began using the Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) as our main student assessment program. Last year we began MAP by training one staff member from each building to act as a site facilitator and piloting the assessment with New Stuyahok, Koliganek and Togiak. This year we will begin using MAP with all of our students K-12. At the in-service we conducted and administrator training on using MAP data with teachers as well an introduction to several of the reports with the entire certified staff.

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State & Federal Programs

Jon Clouse, Director

Fall Inservice

There is a number of state mandated training required for certified and classified staff that work with children. In the past, staff has completed the training through online modules. Upon the suggestion of several staff members, we invited local organizations to provide the training during the district-wide fall inservice. Polly Swick from the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation provided training about blood-borne pathogens and other infectious diseases and their prevention. Another representative from BBAHC will be leading a training session for staff about suicide prevention. We are working to have the same presenters as well as other local organizations at the paraprofessional in September

No Child Left Behind

The district No Child Left Behind application has been provisionally approved pending the additional information requested from the Department of Education and Early Development. This ensures that on October 1st, full allocation of the Title grants will occur. A number of parent notifications will be sent out including information about district adequate yearly progress, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, the right to request teacher qualifications, Title I eligibility, protection of pupil

rights amendment, and Limited English Proficient notifications.

Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Waiver

Congress has not reauthorized ESEA and current annual measurable objectives (AMO's) do not recognize school or student growth or progress. As a result, the U.S. Department of Education is allowing applications for an ESEA Flexibility Waiver to state education departments. Many states have already had similar waivers approved by the U.S. Department of Education. Alaska Department of Education and Early Development will be applying for the ESEA waiver. The waiver will allow the Alaska Department of Education to determine ambitious but achievable annual measurable objectives (AMO's) and the corresponding rate of increase for those AMO's rather than the federal government making those determinations. There are three provisions required in the waiver that include (1) college and career ready expectations for all students, (2) state developed differentiated recognition, accountability, and support for all schools, and (3) supporting effective instruction and leadership. Current AMO's will be "froze" at the 2010-2011 school year when determining adequate yearly progress (AYP) for the 2011-2012 school year while the waiver is being developed.

No Child Left Behind – Alaska STEPP

We will be participating in the second year of the Alaska Steps Toward Educational Progress and Partnerships (STEPP) this year. The Department of Education and Early Development (EED) has made some changes to the online tool in an attempt to streamline the process. Staff at EED has had only positive comments regarding our effort to utilize the tool to improve student achievement.



Student Information & Support Specialist: Kyle Schneider

Kyle has joined the District Office team as the Student Support Specialist. He will be taking over the role that had been filled by Nate Preston, who is the principal at William ‘Sonny’ Nelson School in Ekwok this year.

Kyle joins us from the Norton Sound region where he worked for the Bering Strait School District. During his four years working for Bering Strait, he taught social studies and math in the villages of Koyuk and Shaktoolik. His wife has also moved to Dillingham, where she will be working as one of the sixth grade teachers in Dillingham City Schools.

As the Student Support Specialist, Kyle will be working extensively with PowerSchool and Migrant Education as the school year begins.

PowerSchool University

Over the summer, three staff members from the district attended PowerSchool University trainings. Kyle Schneider and Lisa Ilutsik from the District Office and Leslie Fazio (Togiak) attended weeklong events put on by Pearson School Systems, the company that makes PowerSchool. Over the course of the week, attendees take eight classes for a total of twenty-four hours of instruction. These courses cover topics ranging from best practices for student data, tools for scheduling students in courses to customization of PowerSchool to meet a district’s unique needs.

Migrant Recruiting

The Migrant Education Program provides additional funding to school districts for students whose families spend seven nights/eight days or more at least 20 miles from their home for fishing. This funding is being used to continue the literature initiative involving magazines that began last year. Based on parent surveys, we will be exploring options on how to expand the initiative to include math and science.

Jon Clouse, Kyle Schneider and the village-based recruiters will be attending a state-mandated training in Anchorage on recruiting and records management on August 20th and 21st. Recruiters

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will then contact families in each village to begin recruiting students for the Migrant Education Program.



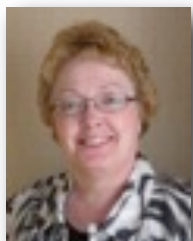
Assessments: Steve Ito

The Alaska Developmental Profile for Kindergarten and First grade students that have not attended a public school will begin within a window from September 15th to November 1st. The purpose of the Alaska Developmental Profile is to identify, record and summarize the skills and behaviors students demonstrate at the beginning of their kindergarten year, based on teacher observations. Student skills and behaviors are defined by goals and indicators in five domains Physical Well-Being, Health, and Motor Development; Social and Emotional Development; Approaches to Learning; Cognition and General Knowledge; and Communication, Language, and Literacy.

The annual District Test Coordinator training sponsored by Alaska Department of Education and Early Development was attended. Updates to statewide assessment protocol and procedure were reviewed. Pertinent application district-wide will be implemented through out the school year.



Yup'ik Studies staff put on a fashion show Bristol Bay style at the All Staff Inservice.



Special Education

Robin Gray, Director

2012-13 Special Education Staff

2012-13 Special Education Staff	
Robin Gray	Director
Lisa Ilutsik	Administrative Asst.
LeEssia O'Sullivan	Teacher - Aleknagik
William Cesolini	Teacher - Twin Hills
Jessica St. Louis	Teacher - Koliganek
Kirsten Tesch	Teacher - Manokotak
Kelli Hammond	Teacher - Manokotak
Ben Greise	Teacher - New Stuyahok
Kip Layton	Teacher - New Stuyahok
Mike Tozzo	Teacher - Togiak
Belynda Weideman	Teacher - Togiak

Training

Training for all special education teachers occurred during the all teacher inservice and updated assessment and support materials were made available. All sites will have access to not only the materials, but also our teachers as resources.

ChildFind

The year will begin with Childfind. Every site will participate in the screening of children from birth to twenty-one that are presented as possibly having developmental or cognitive needs. District personnel do scheduled Childfind activities twice a year, at the beginning and the first week of March. However, anyone can recommend a student for the screening at any time of the year.

CPI Training

The special education department will provide opportunities for training in the Crisis Prevention

Intervention (CPI) process. This is a twelve-hour training and two of our staff; Ben Griese and Billy Cesolini are certified trainers for the district. So far all principals have expressed interest in this training at their sites. Scheduling is being considered and all parties are working together.

Health Education & Immunizations

SWRS, in partnership with Public Health and Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation will be providing opportunities for students to get their TB screenings, immunizations, and fluoride treatments.

All sites will be working with both Public Health and Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation in determining educational presentations these agencies can provide in areas such as bullying, suicide prevention, teen pregnancy, drugs and alcohol, and parenting.



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Yup'ik Studies

Esther Ilutsik, Director

New Year

As we begin a new school year our Yup'ik Studies Instructors have exciting and new ideas to share with their fellow colleagues and students. Eight instructors both certified and classified participated in the 2012 Bilingual Multicultural Education Equity Conference April 25th -27th in Anchorage. They included the following participants: Fanny Parker, 5th Grade & High School Studies Instructor and Bertha Pavian-Lockuk, Yup'ik Instructional Aide 1 both of Togiak, Larry Bartman, High School Studies Instructor & Tech Liason and Louise Gloko, Instructional Aide both of Manokotak, Melody Noden, Yup'ik Studies Aide of Aleknagik, Tatianna Andrew, Yup'ik Studies Aide of New Stuyahok and Margie Nelson, High School Yup'ik Studies & Elementary Instructor of Koliganek.

Babies on Track

Tatianna Andrew, Yup'ik Studies Aide of New Stuyahok highlighted her participation in “BABIES ON TRACKS; MULTICULTURAL MATERIALS FOR ALASKA’S YOUNGEST” session by Barbara Brown, Best Beginnings. Tat writes:

“I really enjoyed her session on Alaska’s newest movie “Babies on Track” which is a 14 minutes tour of Alaska’s babies and how to help them grow healthy, happy, and ready to learn at home with the parents. It comes with two baby board books with no words only pictures which is powerful for the parents to communicate for example: two pictures of dogs. “Look I see two beautiful husky dogs. The movie shows how the baby brain is develop at the very young age.”

T- TALK- THE MORE YOU TALK THE BETTER YOUR CHILD RESPONDS

R- RESPONSE- WAIT/LISTEN/ADD WORDS TO DESCRIBE

A-ASK QUESTION? WHAT’S IN YOUR PURSE?

C- CONNECT- EYE CONTACT/MOTHER NATURE SMELL/FEEL/TOUCH

K- KEEP AT IT- DO A LOT OF TALKING/PAT-A-CAKE, PEEK-A-BOO

S- SING AND TELL STORIES- LISTEN TO KIDS MUSIC INTERACT WITH BABY AND DANCE

“I recommend the parents to take a few minutes of your time to interact because as a parent you’re the child’s first teacher. Stay safe and talk to the child daily-use words with colors, smell, touch, feel and taste. I hope our school district distribute these to our local teen mothers and the rest of the other older mothers. They will help get them ready for kindergarten class.”

Quyana Cakneq!

Bertha A. Pavian-Lockuk, Yup'ik Instructional Aide 1 of Togiak shared the following:

“First of all, I would like to say Quyana Cakneq, for allowing us to be able to attend the Bilingual Conference in Anchorage this year! I always gain something good and positive when I travel for these kinds of conferences or

workshops. I was able to meet other bilingual professors and hear about our differences and yet, gain a good positive feed back from them too.

Although there were a lot of things that I really enjoyed, there was this one workshop that I really enjoyed. It was a workshop called 'Puqigtut'. It is where the students that are struggling with their school work gets extra help in their area where they are having trouble with. They reported that these students that get help through this program gets high grades after being helped. The classes mentioned were in math, science, geography, and history. There are more classes mentioned but without my hand outs on hand I can't remember exactly what classes, but I am sad to report that this program is only offered to the Anchorage School District students, but I thought of our own district and thought that this kind of program might and would be good for our region too. I think any successful help is needed in our region.

Another pointer that stands out for me from this conference is, if I have a class teaching our language, the best way to provide that service and teach our language is to 'strictly' speak the language that is being taught. Meaning that we use all one language through out that class time. I greatly appreciate this pointer and will positively use it for my classroom or 'my time' in my work setting. I may even start using it at my own home too."

Passing on Our Language

Fanny Parker, 5th grade & Yup'ik Studies High School Instructor writes:

First of all, thank you for choosing me to attend the BMEEC meetings in Anchorage this April 2012. Passing down our Yupiaq language to our younger generation is of great importance now in the Bristol Bay Region. Many of our youth are losing our most significant tool: the Native Yupiaq language. Within the last ten years, many of the young parents speak English only to their children. I'm assuming to speed them along in their education because the ways of the western society took over the second schools were erected back in the day. Every assessment is done all in



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formal English and many of our youth struggle because formal English is not spoken anywhere, just broken English, or a mix of both.

Unfortunately, most classrooms have English only in our region now. There were several interesting workshops I attended, but the one workshop I want to share was “Sharing Stories Through Books” by Phillip Farson. He advocates for the Afghanistan children’s education and all of the books he shared with us were books made for the Afghan children.

The books were all about collaborating among people. There was a moral at the end of each book. The story I read with my group was on acceptance. An eagle was flying throughout the country; he became tired and landed to rest for a bit. During his rest, an older woman who had only seen pigeons all of her life, saw this huge eagle. She grabbed him, cut his talons off, unbent his beak, fluffed his feathers to look like a pigeon. That poor eagle was miserable. He had no self-esteem or pride in himself. Another eagle saw this bird, took him home. The savior told him, “You can’t conform to another culture. Learn to collaborate with them instead. Accept people just the way they are. No one is better than the other.”

Ready for new year!

We really appreciate those who took time to write about their experiences and realize the importance of making sure that it is also important for our educators who live in remote parts of Alaska to see what is happening at the state, national and even international level. We all realize and are amazed at the common goals that we are all working towards.





Business Office

Lee Ann Andrew, Director

School Buses

We have been working throughout the spring and summer to make sure the buses are certified for use this year. We missed the April state inspection due to too many buses being out of service. The state inspector will be out to Togiak and Manokotak on August 16th and 17th. There are 2 current drivers that need to renew their CDL licenses.

Time Clock

The district invested in Timeclock Plus, a computerized time clock system. The goal is to automate the timesheets to save time in the recording of hours and for better accountability. We are going to try it at one site to get the bugs worked out. New Stuyahok will be our test site this fall and we will expand as the process gets worked out. This system was fairly inexpensive and another district using our same financial software uses it and likes it.

New Food Service Regulations

Walter will be rolling out new menus that will incorporate the new food service regulations. In addition the district was awarded \$38,000 from the state to purchase Alaska grown, harvested, or produced food. Walter attended a conference that gave him the details on how we can utilize this funding. This will add a new twist to the menus this year also.

New Business Procedures Handbook

Last year at the secretary in-service each secretary received a notebook and jump drive with procedures, forms, and instructions. In lieu of another in-service this year we are updating the jump drive and getting that out to the secretaries and principals. Any training the secretaries need can be handled individually with each site over the phone.

Health Insurance

Now that we offer health insurance to all full time employees we need to find out what programs are available to us. As we research our options we will probably be asked to have our eligible employees complete a health questionnaire. Our current premium covers us until December 31, 2012.

Liability & Property Insurance Rates

Our property and liability insurance with Alaska Public Entity Insurance (APEI) went down again for a second year in a row. They gave us a \$79,270 rebate. Also included in our reduction in cost was a 3.84% discount due to our safety training efforts last year. In the spring Stephanie was given the assignment of safety officer for the district and has plans to get training opportunities to all staff which will hopefully raise our discount to 12%. The 3.84% was over \$8000.

Payroll Audit

This summer Kay Gouyton from the state came out and performed an audit on our payroll looking specifically for TRS and PERS payments. We still have not received the final report however there are two issues that we need to watch closely; making sure that vendors we contract with are not really considered employees per IRS regulations and to make sure our PERS employees that have a lot of leave without pay know how it affects their retirement and they should be put as part time employees in the retirement system.

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Facilities & Maintenance

Rick Dallmann, Director

Koliganek

- We are moving forward with design of the new school and planning a village meeting sometime towards the end of August.

Togiak

- Replacement lighting in gym and foyer has been completed
- New welding room and upgrades has been completed
- Teacher housing repairs have been completed
- New welding equipment is loaded and waiting for barge to haul over
- New teacher housing furniture has been purchased and is waiting for the barge

Aleknagik

- New student desks and chairs have been purchased

New Stuyahok

- Planning for heat recovery project from AVEC plant to the new school
- Working with AK energy authority on some grant opportunities
- Teacher housing repairs
- Teacher housing furniture has been purchased and is being barged up
- New welding equipment has been purchased and is being barged up

Manokotak

- Roof repairs to the school are in progress
- Teacher housing repairs have been completed
- Air filtrations units for the arts room have been purchased and are waiting for barge to bring over
- Teacher housing furniture is waiting to barge over
- Sewer and water upgrades are again delayed until next summer

Twin Hills

- Finishing up permitting of septic system
- Final approval to operate our new bulk fuel farm

Clarks Point

- Working on getting usable items to other schools sites and complete shutdown

District-Wide

- All inspections have been completed
- Working on grants for :
 - Twin Hills renovations
 - Aleknagik renovations
 - Ekwok renovations
 - Manokotak sewer and water up grades
- Working on final approval at all sites for Bulk Fuel farms



William 'Sonny' Nelson School

Nate Preston, Principal/Teacher

We are looking forward to starting the new school year in Ekwok. We are in the process of hiring a new school cook and custodian. In addition, we are looking to find two new CSC members. The reason why we need two new CSC members is because the two new hires for cook and janitor were on the CSC. Once we get all the paper work in, Judy and Peter Walcott will be working for the school.



Koliganek School

Cody McCanna, Principal

Welcome Back!

Koliganek School, along with all schools in SWRSD, will be opening their doors to the community on August 20th. Koliganek School will have an Open House on the first day of school to introduce the new staff to the community and give parents and students an opportunity to get to know their new teachers and classrooms. Furthermore, there will be an assembly with all students and parents to review the school handbook and get some necessary paperwork done. The staff is excited and ready for the challenges and opportunities that the new school year brings with it.

New Staff

Koliganek School has two new staff members this year. Jessica St. Louis will be teaching second and third grade students along with performing some special

education duties as well. Jessica, her husband Rick and two children come to us from Olympia, Washington. Louann Bates will be teaching fourth and fifth grade this year. Louann comes to us from Twin Hills. Koliganek is excited about the energy and expertise Jessica and Louann will bring to our team.

Looking Ahead

Koliganek School is working with USKH in the design of a new school. There is a constructional plan that is in place, but we are still working on the details of classrooms and various other aspects of the building. There will be several meetings throughout the year with the teaching staff and community members to make decisions about the building to ensure it will meet our needs in Koliganek. Needless to say, we are all excited about the process and the thought of having a new building in Koliganek.

REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



‘Chief’ Ivan Blunka School

Brett Scott, Principal

At the time of writing this report Chief Ivan Blunka School is bustling with activity just a few days before school starts. Classrooms are beginning to look like classrooms with desks and chairs in ordered rows, and the excitement is building with kids in the community as a new school year begins. We also will be able to start the new school year off being able to say that “Chief” Ivan Blunka School met the requirements for AYP! This means that we have students that are on task and doing what good students do. This means that we have teachers that are teaching and students that are learning. It also means that we have a high standard to maintain as we progress through the upcoming school year. It is a goal that is well worth pursuing.

We have added 4 new members to our fantastic staff at “Chief” Ivan Blunka School. Katie Duffey will be teaching 1st grade, Charles Becker will be assigned to our 4th/5th grade classroom, Mollia White will be teaching our language arts classes for grades 7th – 12th grades, and our last new staff member, Peter Wolf, is coming to us from Manokotak and will be teaching our 9th – 12th grade math classes. We are very excited have them join our team and bring with them new creative and fresh ideas to our school.

Community Activities

A few special activities are happening in New Stuyahok as we near the start of moose season. The blueberries have been superb and most residents are reporting gallons of berries picked. We were also fortunate enough to have a group from Newhalen and the lower 48 come to New Stuyahok and host a 3-day basketball

camp for grades K-12th at the school gym. They reported a fantastic turnout and inquired as to making this an annual stop. Without much hesitation, we said, “see you next summer!”





Togiak School

Sam Gosuk, Principal

This year is my first as Principal for Togiak. We have two new teachers this year, Nancy bell (4th Grade) and Belynda Weideman (Elementary Special Education). We also have a new Vice Principal Nate Crabtree. Nate and I have been meeting during and after Principal In-service to discuss how we can encourage our teachers and our students.

On the first day of school, we want to encourage the parents to come to the assembly, to be introduced to our students, new teachers, and new CSC.

I see a lot of opportunities for our students to do well this year.

During Principal Conference last fall I had a chance to participate and took it as a class. I had to do a paper of what stood out for me during the conference. One thing that I learned was John Kotter's principles of taking a concept or dream or vision and communicating that to our teachers and the community.

During principal conference, this topic happened to be one of the areas that was presented to the principals during principal in-service, which is making our message urgent and passing the goal or focus, which our teachers should take to help our students. .

During a meeting with our superintendent, we looked at SBAs and saw possible correlation of attendance and how well our students did or didn't. This concept will be one of the urgent information that will be passed on to our teachers, students, parents and CSC. Hopefully by passing on this one thing we as a community can do to help our students, there will be more focus on our student's education.

One of the changes this year is that Elementary K-5 will be starting school earlier and Middle School and High School will be starting later. We as a team need to work out the new schedule with students, parents, and our bus service with TNL.

I am excited about the presentation of new data folders each student will have, which have their SBAs, MAP reading related tests, and their progress. Teachers, students, and parents will be able to see their progress on reading and what progression they are making. Hopefully this will allow students and parents understand the progression of their children and give them support and structure to gain their education.

Thank you for your continued support to the education of students in our region.
Toi whaten pitaunga matumi iralumi. (This concludes my monthly report).



REPORT TO THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION





