



REPORT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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a new year begins, one full of promise...

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

David Piazza, Superintendent



Qalaruciaraq
 ciuqliulukku yuut
 ayagniutekaat
 elitnaurutmun.

Communication is
 the heart of
 community.

Community is the
 heart of learning.

Staffing

When the District concluded the school year and throughout most of the summer, the District was fully staffed. With just two weeks to go before beginning of the year inservices, the staffing pattern started to show some holes. One of the high school teachers who had planned to return to Koliganek decided to break their contract and took employment outside of the teaching profession. The District was successful in recruiting and selecting a candidate who had previously taught in the State. Although he missed the first few days of the inservices, he was able to return to Koliganek with the rest of the staff and is ready for the start of the school year.

Two additional staff members have had recent emergencies requiring surgical procedures, so the District is pursuing long term substitutes to fill

their anticipated length of absences. The candidate pool of qualified individuals is rather slim at this time of year. The sites are planning to use non-certificated individuals as substitutes until a permanent long-term certificated substitute may be found.

Inservice

This year's inservice sessions were shortened to reduce the amount of time staff needed to spend in Dillingham. This made for fast paced days in order to cover the necessary beginning of the year training material. However, through detailed planning, the inservice sessions were beneficial for all in attendance.

As in previous years, the Site Administrator's inservice was held first on August 3rd-4th. Dr. Gary Whiteley, the Project Director of the Alaska Administrative Coaching Project, worked with the principals and



Meet our new staff (from left to right):

Larry Johnson (KMO), Nate Crabtree (CLP), Jason Mabry (TOG), William Cesolini (TOG), Caleb Jurkowski (KGK), Lorraine Masterman (TOG), Colynn Isaacson (KNW), Meridy Mabry (TOG), Leslie Fazio (TOG), Amanda Cantrell (KMO), Ashley Hendricks (KMO), Robin Gray (DO), Michael Tozzo (TOG), Randy Finkenbinder (WKK)
 NOT PICTURED: **Frederic Venner (KGK)**

lead teachers on effective instructional leadership techniques. Utilizing a variety of informal forms of feedback the site administrators continue their ability to identify effective instruction in the classroom. This training will be continued during the first bi-monthly site administrator's meeting on September 21st. Additional sessions during the inservice included: a look at the continuation of the Alaska Steps Toward Educational Progress and Partnership (STEPP) school improvement planning process; Using Data for Improvement lead by Lexie Domaradzki; and discussions regarding the newly adopted Language Arts and Mathematics curriculums.

Without any time to catch a breath, the new teacher's inservice sessions ran Thursday and Friday, August 5th and 6th. Following last year's successful model, the new teacher's inservice provided information to acquaint the staff to the District, as well as, to rural Alaska and the Southwest Region. Although the weather did not cooperate this year, and the outing to Lake Aleknagik had to be cancelled, the new staff had a chance to enjoy fresh salmon cooked on the grill behind the maintenance bay at the district office.

On Sunday, August 7th, all of the returning certificated staff and three classified instructional aides, arrived in Dillingham. The inservice sessions were planned to meet the needs identified through last year's STEPP planning process. Since the area of greatest need as documented by the Standards Based Assessments (SBAs) was in Writing, a large percentage of time was devoted to training on "Trait-Based Writing Across Content Areas" utilizing the 6-Trait Writing Process. An additional focus for the inservice was to provide quality training for the Reading Mastery K-5 reading program for the elementary staff. This part of the inservice was presented by Southwest Region School District staff members Lida Storch, Shannon Clouse, Pam Johnson, Kirsten Tesch, and Deb Endicott. Bob and Carol Thompson who were at New Stuyahok the past two years will continue to work with the District this year, to help to implement Reading Mastery at each of the schools though additional weekly inservice sessions.

Each fall the District recognized the work of its long-term employees. This year the following staff members were recognized.

SERVICE AWARDS		
Name	Site	Length of Service
Pam Johnson	Koliganek	30 Years
Nina Tinker	Aleknagik	25 Years
Sophie Alexie	New Stuyahok	
Denise Gregoire	District Office	
Ann Edwards	New Stuyahok	20 Years
Fanny Parker	Togiak	
Sarah Andrews	Aleknagik	
Joseph Andrews	Togiak	
Cody McCanna	Koliganek	10 Years
Rhona Shavings	Manokotak	
Susan Alexie	Togiak	
Nate Preston	District Office	
Jackie Neketa	New Stuyahok	
Brian Tesch	Manokotak	5 Years
Marlis Evans	Manokotak	
Kyle Casper	New Stuyahok	
Rachel Panamarioff	New Stuyahok	
Lee Ann Andrew	District Office	
Natalia Pauk	Manokotak	
Cynthia Wolf	Manokotak	
Denise Coopchiak	Togiak	
Lisa Ilutsik	District Office	

Each Spring the District solicits candidates for three Employee of the Year awards. The following individuals were selected for special recognition for their exceptional work on behalf of our youth.



Teacher of the Year
Kyle Casper – New Stuyahok



Instructional Aide of the Year
Denise Coopchiak

NOT PICTURED:
Classified Employee of the Year
Martha Foster

Superintendent Travel

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 31st through August 1st. A new superintendent orientation session was presented by several current Alaskan school district superintendents. Following this session, most of the superintendents from across the state joined the meetings with Commissioner Mike Hanley and the rest of the Department of Education's staff.

Superintendent Piazza, was able to attend the first day of school at Togiak on Monday, August 15th, as he arrived on Sunday. On his arrival, he was able to lend a hand with the finishing touches of cleaning out obsolete materials in order to clear the hallways and classrooms for the students. His plans are to visit most of the schools during the first few weeks of school as weather and schedules permit.

Summer Vandalism

There have been several acts of vandalism to the school and teacher housing units across the district this past summer. The Manokotak school was broken into in May. Two teacher housing units were broken into in Togiak. The school and teacher housing unit in the school at Twin Hills were broken into. Also the school and teacher housing units in Ekwok were broken into. These acts of vandalism have cost the district approximately \$8,725 in damages. This does not include losses to food and other items in the teacher's units or the time that the staff spent cleaning up the mess left behind.

AYP

On August 12th the State released the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) statistics. As indicated in their press release sent out: "of the 505 Alaska public schools, 231 schools – or 45.7 percent – made adequate yearly progress in the 2010-2011 school year under the federal No Child Left Behind Act".

The release further indicated that "the results for the school year 2010-2011 reflect the fact that the targets for student proficiency and graduation increased. As a result, the percentage of schools making adequate yearly progress declined by 14.1 percentage points from the school year 2009-2010, when proficiency and graduation targets were lower."

The Aleknagik School, Clarks Point School, and William "Sonny" Nelson School (Ekwok) met AYP for all 31 categories. Although the Koliganek School made AYP for Language Arts, they missed one of the mathematics categories. While the Chief Ivan Blunka School (New Stuyahok) had gains in Language Arts, those were not enough to meet AYP in several categories. The Manokotak and Togiak schools continue to demonstrate gains, however, these were not large enough to meet AYP. The Twin Hills school continues to document declines based on their small student population.

SWRS Regional School Board Goals

The Board would like to establish a long-term vision for the district through a strategic plan or similar process.

The Board will focus on their professional development as a board especially around the area of budget.

The Board will focus on better communication with communities, parents, the district as a whole and themselves.

The Board hopes to level the playing field and assure that all sites receive the same academic focus.

The Board will focus on academic growth for ALL students.



INSTRUCTION & TECHNOLOGY

Steve Noonkesser, Dir. of Instructional & Info Systems

Inservice

Inservices came together very well this fall with training on many district programs and a focus on reading, writing and mathematics.

Training was provided to staff on Reading Mastery, Six Trait Writing Process Across the Curriculum, and a number of other programs. Middle and high school staff met in subject area groups to review curriculum and materials.

Writing Assessment district-wide will be done three times this year as part of our efforts to improve the level of writing skill in our students. Ongoing training will also be held for all staff on a variety of topics related to reading and writing instruction.



Summer Train-the-Trainer Workshop

To prepare for fall inservice, Shannon Clouse, Deb Endicott, Pam Johnson, Lida Storch, Merridy Mabry and Kirstin Tesch traveled to Laramie, Wyoming to receive training on our new reading program Reading Mastery. They attended a two-day training and split our group up into a K-2 section and a 3-5 section. The training was very beneficial and hands on, it helped them to support Carol Thompson in her presentation to the K-5 staff at our All Staff Inservice.

Instructional Aide Inservice

On September 7-8, 2011 all instructional aides will attend an inservice in Dillingham. We believe that our instructional aides can become a stronger part of our programs and can take on more instructional duties. To help staff get up to speed and play a more central role in instruction, we plan to provide training in Reading Mastery and a couple of other key programs.

Battle of the Books

The battle books have been ordered and as soon as they arrive will be sent out to site. The dynamics of the program have changed just a little with different groupings. We will compete at the 3-4, 5-6 and a6-8 grouping, along with a 9-12 group. It will be interesting to see how the different groups do at the district and state battle this year. So far we have Koliganek, Twin Hills and Ekwok competing, we are waiting to hear from our other sites to see if they will be competing too.

Media Center

Shannon and Deb are very busy filling teacher requests and getting materials out to our sites during this first week of school. Shannon is also looking forward to traveling to Manokotak, Ekwok, New Stuyahok and Togiak in the next few weeks to help get the libraries set up and in working order. We still have many sites that need help organizing and putting our new books out on the shelves so they are ready for student check out!



FEDERAL & STATE PROGRAMS

Jon Clouse, Federal/State Programs 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. Tracey Eason from the Office of Child Services and Deanna Baier, from the Child Advocacy Center presented information about child abuse/neglect, as well as, domestic violence/sexual assault. The response to these training opportunities was overwhelmingly positive. We are working to have the same presenters as well as other local organizations at the paraprofessional in September.

No Child Left Behind

The approval of the 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 have been 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.

So far, we have five migrant education recruiters for this school year and hope to have

one more in the near future. The migrant education recruiters will be attending a required training in Anchorage on August 23rd and 24th.

American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

This is the third year of ARRA, specifically the State Fiscal & Stabilization Funds (SFSF). This year the SFSF monies are supporting the activities occurring during the fall inservice including the costs associated with travel, presenters, preparing for the inservice, etc. The SFSF grant expires in September and the funds must be expended before September 30th, which limited the activities that the grant could support this year.

Boarding Home

There have been three applications for students within Southwest Region School District for the state boarding home program. As a reminder, students attending K-8 schools are eligible to attend one of the district's K-12 schools as a boarding student, providing that the parents of the student secure a boarding home for the student.

NCLB - 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.



BUSINESS OFFICE

Lee Ann Andrew, Director of Administrative Services

May brought the end of a five contract for our two bus contracts. We have been working with To-giak Natives Limited and Manokotak Natives Limited for the required documentation. TNL provided most of the documentation in June. MNL is still gathering the documents and has one of the two buses repaired. It was tight getting the interim contracts signed and ready for the new year. The interim contracts give them 30 days to get the final documentation to us.

The New Stuyahok new school project finally closed in July so the district was able to make a \$250,000 investment to get a better return than the savings account. We are looking into the possibility of investing between \$250,000 and \$500,000 more in late August.

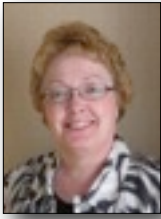
The FY11 audit will be August 29 through September 2. Altman, Rogers & Co. will be available to present the audit at the October board meeting. We have some carry over stimulus funds that will be spent out by August 31 so the grants can be closed by September 30 as required.

The business office was busy during the in-service again this year making sure snacks were out and stocked. We also did the serving for breakfast and lunch during on the 8th, 9th and 10th. It is a great way for us to meet the staff at the sites.

The district worked with Alaska DEC on our part of the water and sewer upgrades in Manokotak. There were two options for paying our part of expenses. One was to pay over \$12,500 more per year on our utility rates. The other is to pay the actual cost of the project for the school and try to get it reimbursed as a Capital Improvement Project. The district requested to pay the cost and work on getting the reimbursement. This option will actually cost less over the course of 20 years even without the reimbursement.

The business office is looking forward to the 2011-2012 school year.





SPECIAL EDUCATION

Robin Gray, Director of Special Ed. & Student Support Services

Welcome to a new school year. I am Robin Gray, the new SWRS Special Education Director. I want to tell you a little about me.

I come from a long line of educators. My parents were teachers, counselors, and administrators. Their hearts were in the classrooms with the students and I find that the same thing applies to me. I see myself as a resource and support for all my students. I acquire my own sense of fulfillment when I can provide opportunities, resources, and also project an ongoing belief that "I believe in you" to all students.

I have taught three years old through high school, job corps, treatment facility, alternative schools, regular education, and special education. I have also taught adults in the college settings. I have lived and taught in many different cultures and environments. I have taught in Alaska, Montana, Oregon, California, Germany, New Mexico, and Georgia.

I was married to a career Army person and have one grown son. My son is James and he is living in South Carolina, going to school, working, and being a husband of a bright seventh grade math teacher and southern belle, Amanda.

I have spent the last six years as a principal in a village north of Nome. I am very happy to be here in Dillingham. Having trees, green, and mountains give me a sense of change and happiness. I want to thank everyone for being so welcoming and I look forward to a long stay in SWRSD and making new friends in all our villages.

The special education department is busy getting the New Year started by working with the special education teachers. We had our first get together and training during the all school inservice. August 31st, and September 1st will be another inservice for the special education teachers in Dillingham. We will be working on Childfind, the paperwork compliance process, and other topics.

We will be having special education aide training on the afternoon of September 8th and the 9th. We are required to provide aide training and with special education aides further specific training will occur. This will aid the staff in working with students with specific needs, understanding how to take goals and objectives and apply techniques with students to support their needs. The special education aides will also be brought up to date on policy, procedure, and legal expectations that pertain to them.

We have two new special education teachers this year. Michael Tozzo and William Cesolini will be in Togiak. Welcome to both of them and we look forward to keeping them with SWRSD for a long time.



Yup'ik Studies

Esther Ilutsik, Director of Yup'ik Studies

Cama-i!

The Yup'ik Studies Program hosted the 2nd Annual Introduction to Teaching in Rural Alaska orientation session on Saturday the 5th of August for all the new teachers coming into the district. Fanny Parker, 5th grade teacher/Togiak, Mickia Walcott, tech liaison/New Stuyahok (both of whom serve on the district Yup'ik Steering Committee) and myself gave an overview of the Yupik language and culture. The presentation included a brief history of the village(s) including their proper Yupiaq terms/pronunciation, an overview of the Bristol Bay Values and a Yupiaq legend of the Pike and Bullhead. This followed with the local communication styles and how they as teachers coming from a different culture can address this style of communication in a positive manner. A brief overview of the adopted Yup'ik Studies Program Student Outcomes as developed by the Yup'ik Steering Committee, Spring 2011 was also presented. This part of the session ended with a quick introduction to Yup'ik dancing – Alii. The session concluded with the participants taking a field trip to the local Sam Fox Museum.

The teachers were also given the opportunity to enroll in the Ed. F 456 Orientation to Teaching in Rural Alaska class as sponsored by the district and taught through our local UAF/Bristol Bay Campus. This is a nine- month class which is taught beginning the Fall semester and ending in the Spring semester with a focal point of the seasonal activities.

This fall the high school students will have an opportunity to enroll in an elective course – YCC 101 Introduction to Yuapiaq. This emphasis of this course is the oral Yupiaq language but embedded within the content of the course are cultural based projects. The following Yup'ik teachers have been assigned to teaching the course: Fanny Parker, Togiak, Larry Bartman, Manokotak, Tatianna Andrew, New Stuyahok and Margie Nelson, Koliganek.





Facilities & Maintenance

Rick Dallmann, Maintenance Director

Aleknagik

Boiler replacement project is completed, Tile work in the restrooms has been completed, flooring replacement in storage room completed. Contaminated soils were fertilized and tilled, soil samples were taken. All inspections completed (fire alarm panel, kitchen hood and fire extinguishers). The backup Generator module from Manokotak was barged over and is on site, we hope to complete the hook up before winter to provide back up power. Grant application turned in with the State of AK; Aleknagik K-8 Renovations total estimated cost \$ 4,230,333

Clarks Point

The replacement back up Generator has been installed and tested. Teacher housing was worked on. Contaminated soils were fertilized and tilled, soil samples taken. All inspections completed (fire alarm panel, kitchen hood and fire extinguishers).

Ekwok

Teacher housing work, including a new Boiler for the complex. All inspections completed (fire alarm panel, kitchen hood and fire extinguisher. No progress on ANTHC sewer line installation.

Koliganek

Replaced leaking grease trap for kitchen, installed power for new steamer and reach in refrigerator, teacher housing work. All inspections completed (fire alarm panel, sprinkler system, kitchen hood and fire extinguishers. Grant application turned in with the State of AK; Koliganek K-12 School Replacement total estimated cost \$ 24,752,572.

Manokotak

Gym floor recoated. Sewer line project with Village Safe water is moving forward we hope to be hooked into the city system by this fall. Roof patching was completed and repairs to teacher housing done. All inspections completed (fire panel, sprinkler

system, kitchen hood and fire extinguishers. Grant application turned in with the State of AK; Manokotak school sewer and water upgrades total estimated cost \$155,500.

New Stuyahok

New bulk fuel storage project with AVEC is progressing on schedule. New water storage project with ANTHC is progressing on schedule. Gym floor recoated, all inspections completed(fire alarm panel, sprinkler system, kitchen hood and fire extinguishers.

Togiak

Temporary patch made to the concrete entrance to the school. Contaminated soils pile was spread out and fertilized. Teacher housing work including some weatherization projects with the AK Building Science Network, planning gym lighting upgrades with same group. Gym floor was recoated. All inspections completed (fire alarm panel, sprinkler system, kitchen hood and fire extinguishers.

Twin Hills

Septic system replacement is scheduled to be completed before the start of school. Teacher housing work. All inspections completed(fire alarm panel and fire extinguishers. Grant application turned in with the State of AK; Twin Hills K-8 Renovations total estimated cost \$ 2,312,423.

District-Wide

Updates to all Bulk fuel storage SPCC plans (spill prevention controls & countermeasures). This will bring us into compliance with all the regulatory agencies including the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Coast Guard, and Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. All Renewal & Replacement schedules updated. Scheduled Generator maintenance at all sites. Inventoried all custodial products and equipment. We will be implementing a new Custodial Care Program at all sites.

**Southwest Region School District
Board of Education
Goals for 2011-2012**

1. The Board would like to establish a long-term vision for the district through a strategic plan or similar process. (Possibly using the STEPP process and marrying it with other resources).
2. The Board will focus on their professional development as a board especially around the area of budget.
3. The Board will focus on better communication with communities, parents, the district as a whole and themselves.
4. The Board hopes to level the playing field and assure that all sites receive the same academic focus.
5. The Board will focus on academic growth for ALL students.