

REPORT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION



BOARD OF EDUCATION

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break is over and we are moving heading toward a wonderful spring..

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Jack Foster, Superintendent



School Board Recognition Month

The Association of Alaska School Boards joins the Governor in declared February to be School Board Recognition Month, a time to honor school board members and to express appreciation for their contributions.



Great Teamwork!

"Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence." —Helen Keller

There is no doubt in my mind that our staff has that faith and confidence that our students are going to having success this year. Thank you staff, board of education, families and students for the great teamwork throughout the district.

Staffing

It is hard to believe that February is here already and we are looking at next year's certified staffing needs. We beginning the first stage of recruiting, finding out who is coming back next year.

Student Count

The official student count for Southwest Region School District came out at 627.45. Last years count was 639.85.

Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School Awarded Title I Distinguished School Honors





Curriculum & Instruction

David Piazza, Director of Instructional Programs

eRate

Following the E-Rate process, the District has been accepting bids for Internet, distance delivery, and telephone services for next year and beyond. Detailed proposals have been received from several vendors and on-site visits by ATT and GCI occurred in January. The District will once again enter into a multi-year contract in order to provide stability and to secure service at the lowest possible cost. The completed E-Rate application will be submitted well within the window that is slated to close in March this year.

Recruiting & Staffing

This is the time of year when the District begins to gear up for meeting its staffing needs for next year. Personnel recruitment and selection is a time-intensive process that requires multiple staff members for the tracking of applicants using the Alaska Teacher Placement AppliTrack system, the interviewing of potential candidates, making phone calls for reference checks, and completing the actual hiring paperwork. The District has also built procedures to immediately welcome the new staff through email correspondence in order to provide a positive transition to the District. As the district receives photos of the new staff members, they are placed on the District's web site in order to begin to make their acquaintance (The link on the lower left corner of the District's home page will take you to the new-hire photo gallery).

I also had a chance to participate in a sectional on "Engaging Parents in Students Success" presented by the Southeast Regional Resource Center and Yupiit School District. This session described the use of Language and Cultural Liaisons to bridge the school and home. This program appears to be similar to the Home School Liaison program that Southwest Region has implemented in the past.

Student Records

Now that first semester report cards have been processed and the second semester is underway, the District is able to upgrade its student information system to its latest version. While the PowerSchool program usually produces major updates that are installed over the summer, changes to the database engine have created a situation where a mid-year update is necessary at this time. We anticipate that staff and parents who use the system will not notice any major changes, however, the system will be configured properly to maintain our service and support agreement with the company.

Alaska Staff Development Network (ASDN)

ASDN is funded and directed by the Alaska Council of School Administrators. Its mission is to improve student achievement by providing research-based courses and workshops to Alaskan teachers and administrators. Southwest Region School District staff have participated in a number of the ASDN workshops in the past. As a partner in the Rural Alaska Principal Preparation Program (RAPPS) grant, SWRS staff members have the opportunity to participate in several workshops free of any additional charges. Spring workshops include: 40 Reading Intervention Strategies for K-6 Students;

Developing and Using Common Assessments to Monitor Student Learning; and Classroom instruction that Works. More information may be obtained from the ASDN website at <http://asdn.org>.



Student Records/ PowerSchool Support (Nate Preston)

We have completed a review of Title VII Indian education certification forms on file and are getting reports from the missing students. The forms are used to give a student count when applying for Title VII formula funds. We receive approximately between \$170,000 and \$200,000 a year from the Title VII formula funds. In addition, we are correlating the districts and the states Limited English Proficiency data. This data determines which students must take the IPT tests.



Counseling/State-wide Assessments (Steve Ito)

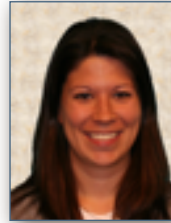
District wide Terra Nova testing for grades 5 & 7 happen the week of February 6th

Terra Nova testing satisfies a mandated federal requirement of The State of Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (EED) to administer a normative referenced test along with a standards based assessment.

The National Assessment for Educational Progress (NAEP) testing begins at selected

sites across the district in February. The NAEP is done every other year nationwide in all states at randomly selected schools. Results are compiled into the "Nation's Report Card" to the public.

Certified and selected classified staff are completing online proficiency testing to be certified Idea Proficiency Testing proctors. Idea Proficiency Testing for Limited English Proficiency students happens in a window beginning in February and ending in March.



Media Center (Shannon Clouse):

Battle of the Books

We have just a few short weeks left of Battle of the Books. We have our district tournament starting February 8th with the third and fourth grade participants. We will have our seventh and eighth grade teams battle on the ninth and the fifth and sixth grade teams battle on the tenth. Although we started out at the beginning of the year with a lot of enthusiasm and participants, we unfortunately didn't end that way. I am still pleased with the turn out and the level of competition that the teams are engaging in- it is obvious that the students who are participating have been reading the books and have been coached well. I look forward to seeing how well the teams do at districts and at the state level. Elementary participants include: Aleknagik, Clarks Point, Twin Hills, Ekwok and New Stuyahok. We have one team at the High School level this year that will represent SWRS at state: Togiak High School.



Best Beginnings/Imagination Library

We currently have 17 children enrolled in the Koliganek Imagination Library, and we have graduated 5 children already. Margie Nelson is always on the look out for new children to enroll into the program. She is working on planning her next monthly literacy night with parents and children.



**Curriculum
(Deb Endicott)**

Reading Is Fundamental

Soon our RIF coordinator volunteers will begin selecting and ordering books for the upcoming RIF distributions. This is a big job and entails collaboration with teachers and students at each different school. It is really important for teachers that volunteer to coordinate RIF at their schools make sure the books they order for distributions are books that the students at their school want to read, and aren't books that teachers want them to read.

Alaska Writing Consortium

Last month we renewed our membership with the organization. With that membership, our teachers are eligible to participate in their various workshops at a reduced cost. This spring semester, the consortium is offering Writing Matters: A Virtual Open Writing Institute through UAF, and teachers can earn 3 Graduate Credits. We currently have three teachers who are registered from Twin Hills, Manokotak, and New Stuyahok.

Alaska Science Consortium

Will hold their Summer Workshop, Ketchikan, AK June 6-17, 2011. This continuing education course is designed for the science teacher to work toward earning the Science Fellowship.

Other areas

Supporting the classroom teacher with more Art/Music/PE activities continues to develop. Presently the principals were sent a message to remind the teachers about the MCC Math available to checkout from the media center. New Stuyahok has two teachers who will be using those kits in the Middle School and Elementary Grades.

Physical Education is a new Standards/GLE adopted by the State of Alaska. Resources have been researched to bring into the district. Spark Physical Education program is a national recognized curriculum for K-12 and after school programs. The material and cost to implement this program is high. AAPHER (American Association Physical Education and Recreation) is sending us materials to review. We will include the Alaskan Native Youth Organization in developing the curriculum.





State & Federal Programs

Jon Clouse, Federal/State Programs Director

Alaska STEPP

No Child Left Behind (NCLB)

The district leadership team is continuing the efforts for district improvement using the Alaska STEPP process. The team is meeting each Wednesday to plan for appropriate key/SMART indicators and to monitor the progress of the district improvement plan. For the month of January, the plans for several indicators were created including: 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 4.6, and 4.7. These indicators address various activities in the areas of instruction and supportive learning environment. In the board packet is the updated comprehensive plan that outlines the assessment, planning, and monitoring of the indicators. The district leadership will continue to meet to plan for the remaining indicators and monitor progress toward meeting the goals of the plans.

The public has access to each school's Alaska STEPP (school improvement) planning process and progress. Contact the principal of the school or myself for guest access for a particular school. Attached is the comprehensive plan from January 3rd, 2011. The public has access to the district improvement planning process online at the following address:

<http://www.centerii.org/SchoolRestructuring/Login.aspx>

The login information is below.

Login: **guestdAK1147**

Password: **guestdAK1147**

Title VII - Indian Education

No Child Left Behind (NCLB)

Part I of the Title VII Indian Education application is in the process of being completed. During the 31-day count period occurring between January 10th, 2010 and February 10th, 2011 the Indian Education

certification forms were updated to reflect current student enrollment. Site staff was contacted in order to secure additional certification forms for those students that didn't have any on file at the district office. Currently, we have certifications for 615 students and are waiting for information on an additional nine students.

Carl Perkins IV

Federal Programs

The industrial arts curriculum committee will be continuing its work towards reviewing, revising, and updating the curriculum. Currently, a draft of the scope and sequence has been created, course descriptions are being updated, and Carl Perkins required programs of study are being developed. In addition, curriculum resources and online resources are being researched that will be most effective in delivering instructions. The main goal of the project is to create a curriculum that meets the needs of the students and satisfies the requirements of Carl Perkins.



Business Office

Lee Ann Andrew, Director of Administrative Services

The final state foundation funding numbers came in lower than budgeted. A budget revision has been done to accommodate for \$9,096,487 in foundation funding down from \$9,217,423. There were enough savings in anticipated health and property insurance costs and payroll savings to cover the difference.

The Bristol Bay Health Trust has been dissolved and the district deposited \$154,000 that will be put toward the cost of the Togiak and Manokotak housing in lieu of getting loans for those projects.

\$4,854,630 was received in Impact Aid funding for FY12. This is up from \$4,429,010 for FY11. Although 90% goes against the state basic need the district gets the benefit of an extra 10% over the state foundation funding.

Lee Ann attended her first teleconference as a member of the Board of Directors for the Alaska Association of Business Officials (ALASBO), the primary professional school business managers' association. It is very informative and being on the board of director's has already given the business office easy access to legislative news affecting education

finance. As our auditors stated during the audit presentation there will be changes in how we present our year end numbers due to a change in the governmental accounting standards. This professional group has been on top of ensuring all districts are knowledgeable and ready.

Safes have been purchased for sites that did not have safes. This was a business office decision due to the fact that money at the sites is business office responsibility.

We are close to applying for the national P-card. This is a national credit card that was initiated by school districts for the benefit of school districts. The more the cumulative group spends the more the individual rebate is for each school district. If we put just our eligible electricity on the P-card we could receive around \$5000 back each year. The application requires board approval in the form of a resolution.

Due to time restraints of the February board meeting the FY11 budget revision and resolution for the P-card will be on the March agenda.



Special Education

Lee Webster, Director of Special Education

Special Education Board Report by New Stuyahok Teacher, Brielle Good: Transition Camp, Dillingham, January 18-22, 2011

In January, three of my students and I were given the opportunity to attend a three-day transition camp with Dillingham Public Schools, SERRC representatives, and local businesses and organizations in Dillingham. We were joined by three other students from SWRSD. During this time, my students were given a wealth of information regarding employability skills, vocational training and post-secondary educational opportunities, internships, scholarships, volunteering, tuition reimbursement programs, and most importantly, motivation to explore the many opportunities the Dillingham Region has to offer young adults. To give you some perspective of what my students and I gained over the course of the camp, I'd like to highlight a few of these experiences below.

Wednesday morning the teachers/chaperones attended a brief transition training provided by two SERRC representatives. As an attendant of that training, I appreciated their openness and willingness to discuss implementation of different transition programs at each site. I valued my peers' input and insight as to how I can better serve my students and provide them with contacts and resources leading up to and following graduation.

Dillingham's, Cathy Reamey, shared her experience working with the BBNA and interactions with her community provided me with what seemed to be a book full of contacts with whom I can network to provide funding and support for our students interested in pursuing education or employment within the village or beyond. Although she is a DPS staff member, I look forward to interacting with her in the future to assist our SWRSD students in developing the contacts and utilizing the resources available to them.

We were able to meet with the BBEDC, the BBNA, a representative with City Hall and about fifteen hospital staff members. We also took a tour through UAF Bristol Bay Campus, where we were given information on general classes that are offered, scholarship affiliates, and vocational programs. At BBEDC, we were given pamphlets and information regarding summer internship programs and tuition reimbursement opportunities. Unfortunately, we were also informed that New Stuyahok didn't qualify for some of the programs due to its location in comparison to Dillingham. It was disappointing, but it gave us an opportunity to discuss what would be available if our students ever found themselves in any of the other communities the BBEDC does serve.

All of these experiences opened students up to discuss how these jobs and choices they've made in the past and will make in the future impact who they are today and who they'll become tomorrow. The students really gained a sense of appreciation for the people who do these jobs day in, and day out, and as a result I think they (our students) feel more encouraged to pursue a profession that gives back to the communities in which they live.



Educational Technology

Steve Noonkesser, Technology Director

Telecommunications Service

The technology department has been reviewing bids for Internet service as part of this year's E-Rate application. An Alaska telecommunications company, GCI, has been chosen as the winning bidder and the final negotiations are in progress. One of the most exciting aspects of our new contract with GCI is the anticipated completion of their "TERRA" project sometime this coming winter. This new transport method will provide terrestrial based Internet services to all of our schools. This means we will no longer be dependent on satellites for our connections, this allows for increased bandwidth, speed, and reliability in our network. This is important to education in many ways, most importantly students and staff will have access to materials and opportunities that before were not accessible due to the constraints imposed by satellite based networks. Further the increased bandwidth opens up new methods for staff collaboration between sites as well as methods for communicating student achievement with parents.

New PowerSchool Servers

The technology department has completed the deployment of a new PowerSchool server. The new server is an upgraded system that allows us to keep our system current with new standards required by the PowerSchool software, which is the district's student data management system.

AIMSWeb Winter Benchmark

With the completion of the Winter AIMS Web benchmark instructional staff have begun looking at the data generated to identify students in need of intervention using the Quadrant Analysis technique they were trained on during an in-service provided in

September. Quadrant analysis properly applied to AIMS web data helps to define areas of difficulty for individual students and identify students that need further diagnostic testing.

Digital Literacy & Online Safety

Materials available in the Curriculum library from the ISTE support computer training for teachers and students. The International Society for Technology in Education is a trusted source for professional development, knowledge generation, and leadership interventions. The goal is to improve teaching and learning by the effective use of technology into the classroom. We have the following books and manuals:

- **Safe Practices for Life Online:** A Guide for Middle and High School
- **Digital Citizenship in Schools:** to support faculty and students in the responsible use of technology.
- **Digital-Age Literacy for Teachers:** Applying technology Standards to Everyday Practice
- **Project-based Learning:** Using information technology
- **Making Technology Standards Work for You:** A guide to the NETS A for School Administrators with Self-Assessment Activities
- **Raising a Digital Child: A Digital Citizenship Handbook for Parents** was distributed two years ago and we have a few copies available.



Facilities & Maintenance

Rick Dallmann, Maintenance Director

Twin Hills

Working with AK Energy Authority on issues with the new bulk fuel facility. We had a faulty pump on the day tank and a few small leaks, the pump has been ordered and will be installed. Replaced the old kitchen stove in the principals housing unit. We are still at # 49 out of 117 on the Major Maintenance Grant Funding list. The Governor has requested in his budget \$ 19.9 million for school major maintenance, this would fund 14 projects. Our eligible project amount is \$ 1,368,336 for Renovations.

Koliganek

We have had some Indoor Air Quality issues and have done some Air testing and Mold sampling to determine the source and what is causing the problems. Will keep everyone informed and meet with the community when we have the test results to determine what needs to happen next. We are still at # 5 out of 32 projects. The Governor has requested in his budget \$28.5 million for new school construction. This will only fund the # 1 school on the list. I am hoping the Legislators will request \$ 100 million for school construction as this is the amount they normally like to fund; this would fund the top 3 schools and move us up the list. Our eligible amount is \$ 23,538,122. We could be funded in FY 13 State budget; we will need to start looking at funding our participating share for this project (\$ 470,762).

Aleknagik

We have received our order of new lights for the gym and hope to do installation over the holiday break (thirty-year-old lighting). I am sure the kids and community will be happy to be able to see in there gym again! I thank Jeff for his patience as this project has taken some time to get completed.

Manokotak

Working on getting Gym lights back on their where a lot of Ballast burned out this work should be completed before the District Basketball tournament. Working on a Community Building Energy Efficiency Upgrade grant. The group has secured about \$ 150,000 in grant money to be split between the City owned buildings, Tribal buildings and the school district buildings. They will be sending Field Managers to assess the buildings and determine what are the most beneficial projects.

Clarks Point

We continue to have power problems; the City power has had some major issues with their distribution system. We have been able to run our old back up generator to mostly keep the school functioning, but have had numerous shutdowns and have had to make many trips over to keep the school open.

Togiak

We are working with the Alaska Building Science Network on a Community Building Energy Efficiency Upgrades. The group has secured about \$ 150,000 in grant funds to be split between the City owned buildings, Tribal buildings and School District Buildings. They will be sending Field Managers to assess the buildings and determine what are the most beneficial projects.

District-Wide

The Department of Education-Facilities Division will be in our District the week of February 14th to do a full assessment of our Preventive Maintenance and Facility Management Compliance. They come out every Five years to make sure we have a compliant Program. This keeps us eligible to receive grant funding through the CIP program.



Aleknagik School

Jeff Ambrosier, Principal

This month has been busy working through the STEPP plan as well as starting to prepare for the SBA's in March. Before that can happen though the 5th and 7th graders are taking the Terra Nova test which is a national test over language arts, math, science, and social studies. Even the students that don't take the SBA's (k-2) are practicing test taking skills such as filling in bubbles on practice "tests" just to get them used to the format.

The AIMSweb testing went well this past month with over half of our kids scoring in the high fluency and high accuracy area and all the other students have shown improvement in their fluency. We are working with some of the students in intervention groups to increase areas that need improvement.



The basketball team traveled to Ekwok for the basketball tournament and pinewood derby contest. The bball team did well winning several of their games and came home with the 2011 Sportsmanship trophy. Johnny Tugatuk won first place in the pinewood derby. Congratulations to everyone that went and participated.



Student Activities

Doug Bushey, Activities Coordinator

Annual Ekwok Basketball Tournament and Pinewood Derby

Ekwok hosted their annual basketball tournament and pinewood derby contest. We want to congratulate the Koliganek girl's team for taking 1st place and Chief "Ivan Blunka" boy's team for taking 1st place. In the pinewood derby contest for the K-4 grade; 1st-Joshua Goodrich, 2nd-Joseph Goodrich, 3rd-Joseph Wassily-Walker and 5-8 grade; 1st-John Tugatuk Jr., 2nd-Alyssa Bushey, 3rd-Kurtis Bushey. Thanks to all who helped with the Ekwok events.



Basketball Season

The basketball season has less than a month left. The Girls District playoffs will be held on Manokotak on February 25 & 26. Chief "Ivan Blunk" School will host the Boys 1A Region 1 Tournament on March 3-5. State Basketball playoffs will be March 14-16 in Anchorage at the Sullivan Arena. Good luck to all.



Clarks Point School

Doug Bushey, Principal

School Improvement

All the students participated in the AIMS Web benchmarking assessment for reading and math with the faculty analyzing the data to help determine educational modifications and interventions. The CSC continues to receive monthly updates regarding the STEPP process with invited input from the parents and community.

Student Activities

All the students made a pinewood derby car and attended the Ekwok basketball and pinewood derby. For the first time we had five of our students join basketball teams from New Stuyakok, and Aleknagik. Thank you teams for having our students join your team.

Our K-12 class celebrated our 100th day in school by making 100 sticker hats, 100 piece necklaces, doing 100 math sorts, and many other activities where we used our counting and addition skill's. The student council is planning their Valentines dinner/dance for Saturday, February 12th.

Visitors and Community Activities

All of us here at the school want to give a big thanks to Kim, Monty, and Jason from maintenance in regards to keeping the generator going so that our school stays warm and inviting for all our students. Rex Spafford with the Department of Corrections visited our school and gave a wonderful presentation regarding the rewards of making good choices now and in the future. Thanks Rex for stopping by.





Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School

Herman Gerving, Principal

Our student-athletes have participated in the Nushagak Showdown at New Stuyahok and the Sockeye Classic at Dillingham. Our high school boys hosted the New Stuyahok Eagles, and our middle school teams hosted Dillingham and New Stuyahok for exciting home game action!

We held our school spelling bee with six class champions. Janessa Black is our school spelling champion and will go on with Kiana Nick, Alqayuk Moore, and Kaden Byayuk to represent Nunaniq School in the district spelling competition.

Pete Abraham of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service presented the yearly Migratory Bird Calendar Contest to all students.

Tiama Fischler has been sworn in to the Executive Board of the Alaska Association of Student Governments, participated in two AASG E-Board audioconferences, one State Board of Education teleconference, and one AASG Winter Business

Meeting as she embraces her duty as SBEED Student Representative. Meanwhile, she continues to demonstrate leadership as Nunaniq Student Council President, facilitating raising student voices and participation, service project awareness and registration, and suicide prevention and awareness.

The eight graders completed the National Assessment of Educational Progress and fifth and seventh graders are currently taking the Terra Novas.

Herman Gerving, Kirstin Schmidt, and Whitney Christiansen represented Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School while officially receiving the National Title I Distinguished School award in Tampa, Florida.

Upcoming, we are looking forward to a Community Celebration and Potluck on February 15.



Alaska's Title I Distinguished Schools demonstrate that learning flourishes when communities, educators and students share a vision of high achievement. --Les Morse



Twin Hills School

Esther Ilutsik, Principal/Teacher

Elder in Residence

We invited Elder Mary Kuku to come in and show the students and teachers how to make a traditional gaspeq pattern for the students. She sat on the floor with newspapers, a pen/markers, scissor's, students and teachers watching her every move. She asked that one of the students that we were making a pattern for first to stand up. She literally measured with her eyes and then proceeded to tell Martha Foster the Yup'ik instructor how to determine the size of the pattern, showed her how to cut it out using the newspaper as the pattern that would be used to downsize gaspeqs at a later stage. For demonstration she asked the student she had measured with her eyes to be sized with the cut out pattern. It fit perfectly. She used only her Yup'ik language with Martha translating as needed. After the pattern was cut then she motioned and gave verbal (in Yup'ik) directions to Meghan Redmond, middle school teacher, on the correct way to sew the pattern together on the sewing machine.



When we asked our Elder Mary Kuku when she started to sew she said that she had started by taking an interest and watching extended family members as they sewed together. She stated that her mother nor anyone else dictated when she was to learn. She initiated the interest and when they saw that interest they gave her guidance as needed. Qu yana, Elder Mary Kuku.



We want to personal thank Martha Foster and Meghan Redmond for staying late into the evenings to complete the qaspeqs that were to be used by our Ingricuaq Dancers in Ekwok during the Pine Wood Derby and basketball tournament. Unfortunately, the weather did not allow us the privilege of traveling to Ekwok. Quyana cakneq, ladies!

Twin Hills Hosts Its Own Pinewood Derby Contest

The students and chaperones waited patiently for a day and a half for the wind to die down. It continued to rip right through Twin Hills shaking our little school and reminding us that the weather always has control of our travels in village Alaska.

So, we decided to have our own Pinewood Derby Contest with us rummaging through storage to find the track that had been used in the past. It was a delightful time with Andy Redmond, community volunteer and his wife Meghan Redmond, middle school teacher taking the lead. First, the students competed against one another with surprising results- Sylvia Henry, 4th grader taking 1st place, Shandi Sharp, 4th grader taking 2nd place and Daisy Kuku, 8th grade taking 3rd place. Then all the students competed against Andy with results unknown but a lot of fun in the process. Quyana Andy and Meghan.

Twin Hills School Celebrates 100 Day with Primary Students

Twin Hills School spent a whole afternoon creating and helping the primary students in creating 100 "things" a concept that they have arrived at and needed to see visually, mentally and physically. They made a hundred hands prints and/or foot prints, a list of a hundred words and cut out a 100 snowflakes. The students had a great time working and creating together. 100 days of school was so special!

