

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

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

K-12 INSTRUCTION & ACTIVITIES

SWRS students did well at the tournaments before Christmas and staff development activities went ahead at sites in early January.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

We are focusing to eRate finalizing internet services contracts and District Technology Plan work. Training for staff at Manokotak and Togiak also went well.

BUSINESS OFFICE

W-2s and 1099s are the focus this month. A number of Workman's Comp claims are also in progress.

MAINTENANCE DEPT.

Site work proceeds smoothly and the New Stuyahok school project starts up again!

FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Imaginarium visits have been arranged for sites and grant reporting progresses.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Site visits and coordination of visits by our specialists were the focus of this past month.

SITE VISITS

I have visited each site in the district two times and several sites more than twice. This was one of my goals for the 2007-2008 school year.

RESPONSIBLE THINKING

Elders are a big part of our success, teaching in the culture classes and helping in the Responsible Thinking Classroom. Respect is the key word. Elders are also working in the Re-

sponsible Thinking Classrooms in both Manokotak and Togiak. As students resolve conflicts, they develop the confidence needed to deal successfully with their own problems. Instead of solving problems for students, responsible thinking process teaches them to solve their own problems. Through this process students take responsibility for the problems but also for the solutions.



Manokotak elder Julia Apalavak and RTP aide Virginia Bartman work with students.

STUDENT COUNT

We still have not received the final 20-day count in October. Right now they are saying 657.70. As of January 16, 2008 we have 654 students. I have a spreadsheet for the 2008-2009 students count. I really believe that the new school at New Stuyahok will create more students to enroll for the 2008-2009 school year. I also do not have the three and four year olds in special education.

QUALITY SCHOOLS (QS2)

The Winter QS2 Meeting is in Juneau on Friday and Saturday, February 8 & 9 (it will be held in conjunction with AASB's Winter Leadership Conference and Fly-In).

Participation in the Winter QS2 Meeting is a requirement for all board presidents, superinten-

2008-2009 Enrollment																
Site	PK3	PK4	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
Aleknagik School			2	6	1	4	4	7	2	3	4		1		0	34
Clarks Point School	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	12	
William "Sonny" Nelson	2	1	1	1	0	2	3	7	2	0	0	1	0		20	
Koliganek School	4	4	3	2	3	1	3	7	5	4	4	4	5	7	52	
Manokotak	7	7	8	8	5	7	13	9	13	12	17	5	6		117	
"Chief" Ivan Blunka	11	7	12	16	8	9	17	6	10	13	22	10	10		152	
Togiak School	4	17	19	14	16	18	19	19	23	17	23	16	28	8	241	
Twin Hills School	1	0	2	4	0	3	0	3	1	0	0	0	0		14	
Total	5	44	47	44	48	43	48	60	57	52	52	60	49	33	642	

dents, and Community Engagement Advocates (if a district has one) of the QS2 partner districts. Once each year during our partnership, these meetings give districts an opportunity to share progress, learn from each other, receive training, and provide AASB/ Alaska ICE with input and feedback that help to strengthen the QS2 initiative and improve its services.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

Lots of issues are piling up right before the start. We'll try to

spell some of those issues out over the following weeks and add what we're doing to try to help here in Juneau. We're all hoping that the 90-day session will be a success and that we'll have many good things to report over the next few months.

The 2008 AASB Leadership Conference & Legislative Fly In is scheduled to take place on February 9th - 12th, in Juneau at the Baranof Hotel. The Youth Advocacy Institute will be held at the same time.



Clarks Point teacher, Michelle Stromer, work with students on the computers.

CELEBRATING THREE YEARS OF SUCCESSES!

SITE REPONSIVENESS

- Clark's Point: worked very closely with the community in order to keep their school open. Started with six students and ended up with eleven - saving a school closure...

RTP

- Responsible Thinking Process- Discipline program at seven sites
- Elders helping in the RTC
- Togiak Principal, David Wick, is teaching RTP each semester to staff.

CURRICULUM

- New Reading Program at all sites: Open Court
- Curriculum Mapping Project: underway at Togiak
- Curriculum team is analyzing and reevaluating our language arts program
- Yup'ik MCC Supplemental Math Curriculum program for all sites
- College-level Yup'ik language high school class (UAF): next semester
- New math curriculum materials at all sites
- Russian language classes are being taught at Koli-ganek
- Web-based remedial education supplement: Learning Upgrades in use at four sites

STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

- 2007 AASAG PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR - Herman Gerving KMO
- Principal of the Year: Region I (David Wick, Togiak)

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

- Fall In-service All Staff – Open Court-Saxson Math-RTP
- In-service for Open Court and Saxon Math programs (mid-year & start of year)
- Variety of research-based staff development (Classi-

- fied and certified)
- Staff Development credit classes (Free/graduate, undergraduate degree)

TECHNOLOGY

- First K-12 Apple Authorized Prometric Testing in U.S.
- New Laptop computers for all 9-12 students in the district
- Improving technology opportunities for K-8
- Laptop computers for School Board Members
- Expanding web services (Enhanced)
- Started digital communication for board members
- Recruiting digitally (Distance Delivery, web, and e-mail)
- Distant Delivery (Bristol Bay Campus)—Math classes -Spanish H.S.

FINANCES

- A balanced budget with 8.66% district reserves

FACILITIES & MAINTENANCE

- New Stuyahok new school project underway and going very well
- New Teacher Housing New Stuyahok
- Co-located fuel tank farms at Ekwok-Togiak
- Light bulb change-out: cost reduction

SPECIAL EDUCATION

- New Special Ed. database program (SEAS)
- Special Education Medicaid reimbursement
- Increase in preschool enrollment in Special Education 2 to 10
- Child Find in the Fall and Spring
- Medicaid training for special education staff and providers





INSTRUCTION & ACTIVITIES

Mike Patrick, K-12 Instruction Director

ACTIVITIES

Chief Ivan Blunka School had the following wrestlers win berths at state wrestling tournament through the Regional Tournament: Kenneth Blunka-3rd, Brad Bond-2nd, John Hanson-1st, Peter Andrew-1st and Billy Peterson-1st. They were the Regional Champions for small schools.

At the state tournament the following boys placed: Brad Bond - 6th, John Hanson - 3rd, Peter Andrew - 3rd, and Billy Peterson - 3rd. The team placed 9th overall out of 44 schools represented at the state 1A, 2A and 3A wrestling tournament. Of the top 25 schools New Stuyahok was the only 1A school. In addition, the Eagles captured the highest combined GPA of the 44 schools represented and received a plaque for that distinction. Many of the spectators in the crowd commented on not only the boys athletic prowess, but also their positive attitude and good behavior. SWRSD should be proud of their accomplishments. Including Koliganek's Volleyball team at regionals, this makes two GPA awards the District has earned.

The Anchorage Imaginarium Program in science and culture will be touring District in February. It should be an excellent presentation with special presentations for students and the community.

The Basketball season is in full swing and several of the District teams are off to strong starts and setting their sites for the Sockeye Tournament on Jan. 25th in Bristol Bay and the Elk's on Feb. 15th.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

January found the District engaged in multiple in-services.

Our Tech Department combined with Apple Representatives to give two days of in-service training to Togiak teachers and two days to Manokotak teachers.

Polly Gessele from Montana presented two days one from District Office (due to weather) and one in New Stuyahok . She presented to the K-6 staff for Open Court Reading using Distance Delivery to services all eight sites.

Nicole Hamilton from Dallas, Texas presented training in Saxon Math to all eight sites from District office via Distance Delivery. In addition, the sites had individual trainings in effective teaching (Harry Wong Program), and Curriculum Mapping.

PRINCIPALS' MEETING

The principals' meeting for January was not held because it would have conflicted with in-service efforts and our big sites are gearing up for an instructional audit by the State at the end of the month. The meeting has been rescheduled for February 6th.





INFORMATION SYSTEMS & TECHNOLOGY

David Piazza, Information Systems Director

E-Rate

We finally received "advanced" notice that our funding for this school year will be announced the week of January 21st. It usually takes a week or two before we see the actual Funding Commitment Decision Letter in the mail.

We sent out Income Level Survey to the parents in Ekwo, Koliganek, and Togiak to determine if we will be able to maintain our 90% subsidy level. We are still in the process of working through that paperwork. Our E-Rate Application Form 471 is due the first week of February.

We have received contract proposals for E-Rate Eligible Telecom Services (Local & Long Distance Phone and Distance Learning) and Internet Services from GCI, DRS, and ATT as anticipated. We may have a proposal selection to report by the board meeting.

Site Support

A site visit to Ekwo to reconfigure classroom computers

occurred. The older computers were imaged to meet current needs.

Student Records/OASIS

The district has received the final draft of the Fall OASIS/ Foundation Count Report checks from the State. Based on the data we submitted, our student count was lowered by 3.4 students. One student was incorrectly left active in the student record system who never returned to school this fall (they transferred to another school in state). One student was 21 years old, so they don't qualify for funding. One student was incorrectly left active in the student record system who was evaluated for pre-school special education services, but who was certified by an IEP after the count period so we don't qualify for funding. The other 0.4FTE of a student is made up of several days that were lost due to students transferring to other schools. While we never like to drop our count values, this is a normal process sorting out the count over a 20 day period from 8

sites.

T4 Project (I-I Laptops)

John Monahan from Apple was able to provide two-day inservices in technology integration at Togiak and Manokotak during the inservice days after the break. During the time at Togiak, Les Parks was able to re-image the student computers. At Manokotak, Jon Clouse was able provide additional support during the training as well as, assist with site technology needs.

Media Center

The district's Spelling Bee was held via distance delivery. The K-4 winner was Rhemus Bavilla at Togiak and the runner up was Michelle Geerhart at Manokotak. The K-8 Overall Bee Winner was Victor Jordan, at Manokotak (two time winner from last year) and the runner up was Charles Andrew at Aleknagik.

The new RIF book orders should be processed so that books will be arriving from

Spring distributions. The Battle of the Books contests will be held the last week of January as well. We may have results in time for the Board Meeting.

Student Records/ PowerSchool Support

The Impact Aid Application has been submitted from the data collected.

The bubble pre-code reports have been submitted to prepare for state-wide testing in April.



BUSINESS OFFICE

Diane Simmons, Business Manager

WORKMAN'S COMP

As of December 20, 2007, we have processed ten workman's comp claims this fiscal year. The injuries range from a can falling off a shelf and landing on an employee's foot to slipping and falling on steps, boardwalks, and slushy slopes resulting in breaks and torn ligaments in legs. Diane and Denise met with the representatives of AML/JIA late November, and we discussed the status of the outstanding claims and concur that the number of claims and the dollar amounts involved are minimal. Most of the claims should be closed in the next few months.

IMPACT AID

With the assistance of the Technology Department and Superintendent, Lee Ann completed the Impact Aid application on-line and submitted it. It will be several months before allotments are made.

W-2 & 1099 FORMS

Denise and Aileen have been getting ready to run W-2's and 1099's for calendar year 2007. This involves going through vendor records to be sure all appropriate vendors will receive a 1099 form and payroll files reconciling all balances. All employees have been asked to verify their addresses prior to mailing the W-2's.

INSURANCE

We have received the renewal rates for Aetna Insurance. We requested and were granted a 13 month contract so our contract will be on a cal-

endar year basis. Health insurance rates increased 10% and dental plan rates increased 7%. Per the negotiated agreement, no increased will be passed on to employees for the remainder of the FY08 contract period.

GRANTS

Grant reimbursement requests have been compiled for the 2nd quarter of FY08. Through the NCLB grants we had expenditures of \$289,384, mostly for salaries and contract professionals. The PAT program has expended \$60,330 the first semester on salaries.

Salaries and supplies paid from the Indian Ed Program have amounted to \$68,569.



Mary Acovak demonstrates grass weaving techniques at New Stuyahok.



FEDERAL & STATE PROGRAMS

Dennis Simmons, Federal/State Programs Director

BOARDING HOME

Completed Boarding Home Program and Budget Reports for reporting period Oct. 1 through Dec. 31, 2007 (see attached for details).

GRANT WORKSHEET SUMMATION

Completed grant worksheet summation based on Business Manager reports showing expenditures through 12/31/07 (see attached).

LEA PERFORMANCE REPORT

Completed and sent to the state prior to due date, which was Jan. 15, 2008.

INDIAN EDUCATION

Completed Part I of the Title VII Indian Education Formula Grant, verifying the number of qualifying Alaska Native students attending SWR Schools at 646, down 20 from last year. Phase II, which includes program information and budget, will be completed in February.

IMAGINARIUM VISIT

The Imaginarium, the Science Discovery Center in Anchorage, has scheduled a combination of programs at six of our sites Feb. 11 through Feb.

22; Twin Hills will participate in Togiak, and Clarks Point will participate in Aleknagik (see attached schedule for details). General school assemblies provide dynamic, interactive demonstrations that combine theatre with science to create unique, entertaining, and educational experiences for all ages; grade-level workshops bring 45-minutes of standards based hands-on science to the classroom, involving inquiry, discussion, application and take-home activities, and the community science festivals bring a mini-Imaginarium to the entire community with family friendly, hands-on exhibits and activities. For more information on The Imaginarium, visit their website: <http://www.imaginarium.org/>

NCLB CONFERENCE

Attending the state sponsored NCLB conference in Anchorage, Jan. 15 and 16, 2008, with sessions on aligning curriculum with the state's GLEs, using assessments in instruction, the Work Ready/College Ready Program, and NCLB highlights and updates for completing this next year's NCLB application.



SPECIAL EDUCATION

Ruth Umlauf, Special Education Coordinator

Current Activities

Working with Pam Johnson on the PAT grant. Consulting with ILP regarding transitioning students into programs. Coordinating site visits for Physical Therapist and Psychologists. Made arrangements for a special education teacher to attend the NCLB conference for this month.

Site visits to Togiak and New Stuyahok.

Upcoming Projects & Activities

Making arrangements to take 5 teachers to the State Special Education conference held in Anchorage on Feb. 18th - 21st.

Coordinating sites visits for Occupational Therapist and Speech Pathologists.

Plan visits to Koliganek and Manokotak.



FACILITIES & MAINTENANCE

Rick Dallmann, Maintenance Director

NEW STUYAHOK

Unit Co. is back on site and work is progressing at the new school.

Working on change order's to playground and corridor protection.

Working with Saxton , Bradley , INC. on the new school furnishings

Working with Venture Development Group getting final documents in place to start the new teacher housing project In the spring.

Official Award from AHFC for the additional Four teacher housing units (\$933,227)

TOGIAK :

Have completed the soils and site characterization study at the old school site. This information has been submitted to AK Dept. of Environmental Conservation. A cleanup strategy will be decided from this information

Water system work was performed during the break.

Ventilation project will be started when all equipment and materials are on site

ALEKNAGIK :

Water system work was performed during the break.

Changed all filter media and finished copper pipe installation

Installed new basketball backboards

Gym double door installation is completed

MANOKOTAK :

Water system work was performed during the break

Johnson Controls have been on site adjusting the HVAC systems

Sprinkler system is now operational with Glycol in all pipes

CLARKS POINT :

Johnson Controls have been on site working on the HVAC systems

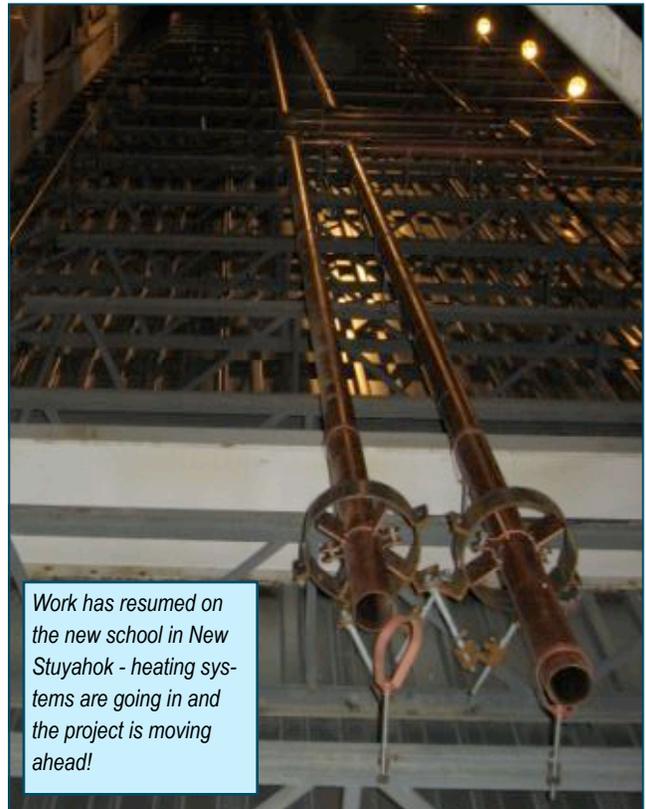
EKWOK :

Water system work was performed during the break

Changed all filter media and installed new Ozone generator

Still running our own generators 24/7

Working with Alaska Energy Authority on design and grant funding for a new bulk fuel tank farm , new marine header and fill pipe line to the school.



Work has resumed on the new school in New Stuyahok - heating systems are going in and the project is moving ahead!