

# REPORT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION



**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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*budgeting, planning and looking to next year...*

**SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE**  
**Jack Foster, Superintendent**



**DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW**

**K-12 INSTRUCTION & ACTIVITIES**

Curriculum work progress on Language Arts and the Togiak girls go to State for basketball!

**INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

Working with eRate review and are working on the District Technology Plan.

**FEDERAL PROGRAMS**

Work progresses on Indian Education program grant application.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION**

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

**BUSINESS OFFICE**

Spring orders and the FY09 budget process were the focus of this past month.

**CULTURE WEEK AT NEW STUYAHOK**



The last week of February New Stuyahok dedicated a week to different cultures around the world. All elementary, middle school, and high school students participated in a fun-filled week. Each teacher chose a cultural activity to teach each grade level. The students then rotated through each activity. Some of the activities were Mexican piñatas, Italian Bocce Ball, Egyptian art, Net tying, German cooking, head dresses,



Eskimo Yo-Yos, Russian cooking, and more.

The week proved to be very successful with the students. The students not only learned how unique their culture is, but also how it compares to other cultures around the world. The



students were speaking various languages, learning new traditions, and eating new foods. The teachers also enjoyed the week and trying something new.



### STUDENT TRIP

Pattie had a great time ringing her cowbell and cheering for William, Richard and Keith at Special Olympics in Anchorage yesterday. These Togiak boys were FAST on their snowshoes and earned medals galore.

Good job Coach Mark!

Go Togiak Huskies!

### NEW SCHOOL

The steel framing for the walls in the new school is almost complete. They will be starting on the sheet rock next. The plumbers are completing the pipes for heat and water. The electrical contractor is working with the wiring. Wassillie and the crew are installing the windows in the building.



### LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

The Alaska Senate approved a bill enacting the recommendations of the Legislative Education Funding Task Force. The bill (HB 273) boosts state support for K-12 education through additional funding for the Base Student Allocation, the District Cost Factor, Intensive Needs students, pupil transportation and a hold-harmless factor for shrinking enrollments.

"This is historic," said Carl Rose, executive director of AASB. "With this vote Alaska schools will see early and forward funding for the first time ever. The areas of the foundation formula that have been neglected over the past decade will finally get much-needed attention. School districts across the state will benefit from this bill."

AASB member districts urged the Legislature to enact the task force recommendations last month. HB 273 passed the House last week on a vote of 32 to 5. The Senate vote was 16 to 4. A notice of reconsideration will bring the measure back for a second vote of the Senate before it goes to the Governor.

An amendment seeking to double the \$100 increase to the Base Student Allocation next year was rejected by the Senate on a vote of 15 to 5.

**STATE OF ALASKA  
INSTRUCTIONAL AUDIT**

Results of the Instructional Audit (both the desk audit and site audit combined)

- Passed on Support to the educational process
- Passed on Professional development
- Curriculum, Assessment, Instruction and Leadership – did not meet

Next steps: State comes in with a District improvement plan: suggestion to start with three areas of improvement:

1. Training for and use of classroom assessments to guide instruction. AIMS website and other computer training sources. An assortment of sources to use available for teachers to use. Some will be directed by the State, others suggested by administration.
2. Training for and implementation for weekly collaborative meetings at each school to help with staff to stay focused

on instructional strategies separate from procedures, policies or other items often discussed in team meetings.

3. Leadership training for principals and district level employees. Training will be conducted both off-site and on-site visitations. Purpose of training is to assist principals to coach and train teachers.

**Note: Each school may have been doing an audit requirement but it was not in the format that the state was asking. This is why we have so many “did not meet.”**

Official state report in packet under district correspondence.



SITE	DATE	TIME
Togiak	May 12 <sup>th</sup>	1:30 PM
New Stuyahok	May 9 <sup>th</sup>	2:00 PM
Manokotak	May 8 <sup>th</sup>	3:00 PM
Koliganek	May 15 <sup>th</sup>	1:00 PM
Aleknagik	May 15 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 PM
Clarks Point	May 10 <sup>th</sup>	2:00 PM
Ekwok	May 13 <sup>th</sup>	1:00 PM
Twin Hills	May 14 <sup>th</sup>	1:00 PM



## INSTRUCTION & ACTIVITIES

### Mike Patrick, K-12 Instruction Director

#### ACTIVITIES

Two cultural events took place since we last met. New Stuyahok had a weeklong cultural activities event organized by Margie Hastings emphasizing craft skills and dancing. Manokotak had their outdoor cultural education event emphasizing outdoor skills and winter fishing. In addition, I got to see a special performance of the Lake Aleknagik student Yup'ik dancers.

Basketball players both elementary and high school have been busy. The young players have seen action in Aleknagik, Ekwok, and Dillingham. While the high schools have concluded their District and Regional competitions. The New Stuyahok Boys and the Togiak Girls won the District. Followed closely by the Regional competitions held at Manokotak and Togiak on March 6-8th. The Togiak Girls kept their season long momentum and came away with the tournament victory and are now headed to the State Tourney in Anchorage on March 18th–20th. The girls will play at the Sullivan Arena and Huslia will be there first contest. At Manokotak, King Cove won the boys tourney, with Koliganek finishing second. Congratulations to all of our teams, and it is now time to prepare for NYO.

#### CURRICULUM

The Language Arts committees continue. The High School committee met on March 3 via distance delivery and the 7th/8th grade committee met on March 5th. "If all goes well," it should be brought to conclusion by the end of April.

The supplemental, Math in the Cultural Context is moving forward. On Feb. 18th, in-service was held here in the boardroom was the unit; "Going to Egg Island" was introduced. Becky Adams from UAF will be presenting to the Principals at the March 12th meeting about the MCC program.

All the sites are busy preparing their book and supply orders for next year. While spring tells our

students the end is near, it also tells the Staff and District Office that it is time to get ready for the 2008-09 school year.

#### PRINCIPALS' MEETING

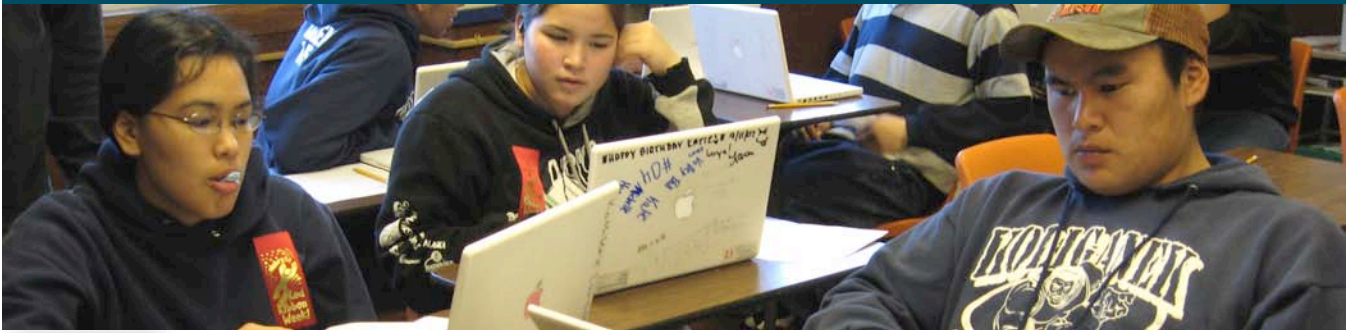
Superintendent Foster addressed the principals on the topic of "Looking Forward." He discussed where we are now and where we are headed. Aileen Walsh of the business office gave a brief lesson on excel spreadsheets and their applications in the District. Ruth Umlauf, special education will address extended learning activities, summer school and after school tutoring. Steve Ito will do some preparation for the SBA testing and explore formative assessments on the EED website. Mike Patrick will discuss applied learning and its role in future curriculum.

In addition, there will be a distance delivery presentation from Barbara Thompson from the State Education Department. She will be discussing the recent instructional audit, and school improvement efforts for next year. Becky Adams will be here, from UAF, to present more information on Math in the Cultural Context.

#### STATE TESTING

The dates for State exams are April 1st-3rd. There will be a new science exam on the 8th of April.





## INFORMATION SYSTEMS & TECHNOLOGY

**David Piazza, Information Systems Director**

### **E-Rate**

On February 7, 2008 the District was notified that it had been selected for a Compliance Attestation Examination. This "audit" of the district's compliance with the policies and procedures of the E-Rate program is ongoing. The audit includes Distance Learning Services provided in the 2002-2003 school year, Basic Maintenance Services for the Togiak Phone system provided in the 2005-2006 school year, long distance services provided in the 2005-2006 school year and Internet Access services provided in the 2006-2007 school year.

The audit is being conducted by personnel from the Pittsburgh office of the accounting firm of KPMG. The District submitted the required "Attachment D" paperwork that was requested which included documentation of the District's Technology Plans, Budgets, Internet Safety Policy, Telecommunication and Internet contracts with vendors. The District also submitted the "Attachment E" paperwork as re-

quested which included copies of 3 years worth of E-Rate applications and other E-Rate forms and complete billing invoices and payment records relating to the services listed above. An on-site Entrance Conference was held between district staff and the KPMG auditors on March 5th at the District Office. Since that time, we have responded to several e-mail and phone requests for additional information and expect more requests as the audit continues. The audit will continue into April and may require on-site school visits by the audit team

At the conclusion of the audit, a report and any "Findings" (identified significant deficiency or material weakness in following the policies and procedures of the E-Rate Program or accepted accounting principles) will be sent to the Universal Service Administration Corporation (E-Rate Program) and the FCC. This report may take a year to be finalized, however, we will update the board as soon as possible. At this time, we don't

expect any negative reports or Findings.

### **Site Support**

The Outstanding Technology Integration Award recipient for February was Caitlen Winebarger, Manokotak. Samuel Bourgeois, Togiak, was a People's Choice Award Winner for his iMovie submitted to and judged during the ASTE conference at the end of February.

### **STUDENT RECORDS/ POWERSCHOOL SUPPORT**

We are gearing up for the Participation Report due in April and the End of Year NCLB/OASIS Reports.

### **Media Center**

Shannon Clouse, Media Specialist, has been busy getting the RIF orders put together. Books are arriving and are headed out to sites for distributions in April and May. Final RIF distribution will take place in the fall. Shannon will be out on maternity leave for several weeks. Hopefully we will keep things running smoothly in her absence.



## FEDERAL & STATE PROGRAMS

### Dennis Simmons, Federal/State Programs Director

#### **FY090 NCLB CONSOLIDATED APPLICATION**

Will begin working on the new NCLB application, which is expected to be released soon; it will be due back to the state by the end of May.

#### **ALASKA NATIVE EDUCATION GRANTS**

The Integrating Technology & Learning Grant Project was submitted to grants.gov on Feb. 20. If awarded, this three-year project will serve students in grades K-12 of our district using research based curriculum-integrated technology systems to improve student academic achievement in reading and math. Grant recipients should be notified by mid-July.

The Parents-As-Teachers (PAT) Grant Project was submitted to grants.gov on Feb. 20. If awarded, this three-year project will serve 110 children in our district. The PAT program is a research-based program in parent education and family support serving children from birth until the age of five. The project seeks to enable 100 percent of the children involved to be ready for school and to achieve in school. Grant recipients should be notified by mid-July.

#### **INDIAN EDUCATION**

Will begin working on Part II of the Indian Education Grant Application, which must be completed by April 30.



## SPECIAL EDUCATION

### Ruth Umlauf, Special Education Coordinator

#### **Current Activities**

- Coordinated with Jeanne Soles to set up dates for Alternate Assessments.
- Coordinating with specialist for site visits.
- Reviewed grant proposal to get ready for submission of PAT grant. Dennis Simmons submitted grant on Feb. 20th.
- Met with Pam Johnson, SWRSD PAT Coordinator, and Melissa Pickle, PAT State Coordinator to talk about PAT program for next year.
- Traveled to Ekwok, Manokotak, Togiak, New Stuyahok

#### **Upcoming Projects & Activities**

- Developing Special Education Reference Guide for special education teachers.
- Oversee the Alternate Assessments for special education students.
- Oversee the training of special education staff in giving the Alternate Assessment.
- Working with Head Start to plan April's Child Find for both Togiak and New Stuyahok.



## BUSINESS OFFICE

### Diane Simmons, Business Manager

#### SPRING ORDERS

Spring orders from the sites are returning to the Business Office for processing. We are collaborating with Maintenance and Curriculum staff to be sure there is no overlap in purchasing of supplies and textbooks. March 12 was the deadline date for orders to be returned to us so the products can reach the site prior to staff leaving from the school site. Orders that are not received by that date will be processed to take advantage of using end-of-year-money, but will not be faxed to the vendor until mid-July so delivery can take place when staff is at the school.

#### FINANCIAL SOFTWARE

The new financial software has been ordered along with necessary hardware with delivery and training to happen in May. Since Maintenance is the most active department in the summer, we are discussing ways to make purchasing and accounts payable less busy so the staff can concentrate on learning and becoming comfortable with the program before school begins in the fall.

#### PRELIMINARY AUDIT

We have signed an agreement letter with Altman, Rogers & Company, SWRSD auditors, to conduct the internal audit of our financial records. They are scheduled to be here from April 28 through May 2 to complete the preliminary audit with the date of the final week still undetermined.

#### FY09 BUDGET

I spent much of February developing the FY09 budget. If the legislature goes along with the recommendations of the task force, we will have less revenue in FY09 than in FY08. Staffing recommendations were requested and received from the principals; however, with fewer available dollars, some adjustments may need to be made. On one positive note, our indirect rate of 5.21% was approved by the state. This percentage applies to state and federal grants to cover administrative costs in the business office.

