

REPORT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION



BOARD OF EDUCATION

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inservice is over and schools are about to open...

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Jack Foster, Superintendent



DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

BUSINESS OFFICE

The Business Office is busy with audit preparations and inservice.

FEDERAL PROGRAMS

We are preparing for another busy year of reports and oversight of a number of grants.

SPECIAL EDUCATION & PARENTS AS TEACHERS

We have a new Director of Special Education.

INSTRUCTION

We are fully immersed in fall inservice and school start-up.

MAINTENANCE DEPT.

New Stuyahok construction and summer projects are running full speed ahead.

TECHNOLOGY

Systems are being brought online and computers readied for staff and students, while we assist with a variety of projects across our district.



New staff members Ben Saylor and Andy Brubacher at the new teacher inservice.

FALL INSERVICES

Fall inservices went extremely well this year. We held a three and a half day inservice for site administrators this fall that was highlighted by a leadership training by Dr. Gary Whiteley, a long-time Alaskan educator. New staff attended two days of training on district programs and procedures. This fall we changed the way we did our fall inservice and scheduled it somewhat like a conference so that staff could attend specific sessions that would meet

their individual needs. Staff also attended a couple days of training on AIMSWeb and ACFA assessments. Overall the experience seems to have been a positive one for all concerned.

NEW ELECTRONIC TOOLS

We have made a number of additions and improvements to our web site and other online services. We have a new online Principal's Handbook to make it easier for site administrators to access information.



Media Specialist, Shannon Clouse, shares materials with new staff.

2007-2008 ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS

Five of our schools made AYP!

Aleknagik, Clarks Point, Ekwok, Manokotak, Twin Hills made AYP in all areas.

Togiak made AYP in Math and Language, but did not pass on Graduation Rate. Koliganek did not make AYP in Mathematics.

MANOKOTAK 'NUNANIQ' SCHOOL - KMO

Area	% passing	Meets AYP?
Language Arts	36%	Yes (safe harbor)
Math	41%	Yes (safe harbor)
All other areas	--	Yes - AVG

ALEKNAGIK SCHOOL - WKK

Area	% passing	Meets AYP?
Language Arts	48%	Yes (safe harbor)
Math	52%	Yes
All other areas	--	Yes

TOGIAK SCHOOL - TOG

Area	% passing	Meets AYP?
Language Arts	42%	Yes (safe harbor)
Math	43%	Yes (safe harbor)
All other areas	--	No - Grad. Rate

(Note: AYP was made in Language Arts and in Mathematics, but not in Graduation Rate.)

CHIEF IVAN BLUNKA' SCHOOL - KNW

Area	% passing	Meets AYP?
Language Arts	34%	Yes (safe harbor)
Math	31%	No
All other areas	--	Yes

(Note: AYP was not made in Mathematics.)

TWIN HILLS SCHOOL - TWA

Area	% passing	Meets AYP?
Language Arts	22%	Yes (safe harbor)
Math	44%	Yes
All other areas	--	Yes

CLARKS POINT SCHOOL - CLP

Area	% passing	Meets AYP?
Language Arts	57%	Yes
Math	57%	Yes
All other areas	--	Yes

WM. 'SONNY' NELSON SCHOOL - KEK

Area	% passing	Meets AYP?
Language Arts	80%	Yes
Math	40%	Yes
All other areas	--	Yes

KOLIGANEK SCHOOL - KGK

Area	% passing	Meets AYP?
Language Arts	60%	Yes
Math	44%	No
All other areas	--	Yes

(Note: AYP was not made in Mathematics.)

We will go over the AYP results for each of the sites with you at our upcoming meeting. Changes in the way the state is reporting and assessing AYP will also be discussed. We are very encouraged by the results of this past year. In light of the substantial gains being made in our schools, the state decided to forego intervention in our programs.

Meet some of our new staff for the 2008-2009 School Year...



Tara Balice
Tara will be teaching high school science at Togiak School.



Terry Roelfsema
Terry will be teaching high school industrial arts at 'Chief Ivan Blunka' School.



Melissa Smith
Melissa will be teaching high school language arts at Togiak School.



Andy Brubacher
Andy will be teaching third grade at Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School.



Max Sanchez
Max will be teaching high school special education at Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School.



Lida Storch
Lida will be teaching fourth and fifth grade at Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School.



Whitney Christiansen
Whitney will be teaching high school language Arts at Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School.



Ben Saylor
Ben will be teaching middle school at 'Chief Ivan Blunka' School.



Liz Teixeira
Liz will be teaching high school math at 'Chief Ivan Blunka' School.



Katy Cohn
Katy will be teaching middle school language arts at Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School.



Kirsten Schmidt
Kirsten will be teaching elementary special education at Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School.



Lisa Wicke
Lisa will be teaching third grade at Togiak School.



Richard Rau
Richard will be teaching high school language arts at Koli-ganek School.



Liz Simms
Liz will be teaching elementary special education at Aleknagik School.



BUSINESS OFFICE

Lee Ann Andrew, Director of Administrative Services

Staffing

Diane Simmons left at the end of May and I worked as interim business manager for a month before it became official on July 1st. As the year goes on, you will find that I am very open and to the point. I like to give background information on issues so you may get more information than you want. Aileen Walsh will move into my old position when we hire a new accounts payable person. Genny Dyasuk will be taking maternity leave beginning September 15th. Her return date

is unknown at this time. I really enjoy my staff and find that they are hard working people.

Financial Software

We had to adjust our implementation schedule for the new financial software. The training in June was not what we expected and did not prepare us to make the move. We have a new representative and I feel confident that he will be able to provide the training we need. We are now aiming to start the purchasing part of the program in October and payroll in January.

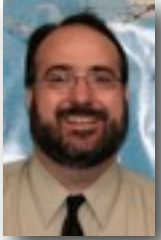
2008 Audit

Our final audit will be the week of August 25th. The audit preparation is teaching me the finer points of the budget.

Procedures

I feel that detailed procedures help everyone do their job better. It appears that over the years some procedures have become very vague. The

goal of the business office is to get procedures set in a format that is helpful to everyone. I would like to have the board review them, so periodically there will be a written procedure in the board packet. Policy allows staff to develop the procedures so no action is needed by the board but comments are welcome. My definition of detailed procedures is how to do something not restricting what can be done. Policy sets the limits.



CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

David Piazza, Director of Instructional Programs

District-Wide Inservice

This year's inservice sessions for principals, new teachers, and returning certified and classified instructional aids was designed to support the District's District Improvement Plan. Even though the State has reclassified their action from "Intervening" at Southwest Region Schools to providing "Technical Assistance" to the District, we felt that following through on the improvement plan as was written in May would be best to continue to make improvements in the teaching and learning environment for students. The site administrators inservice included two days Leadership Training provided by Dr. Gary Whiteley to help administrators facilitate collaborative meetings focusing on student improvement through the use of assessment data. The new teacher's inservice provided opportunities to learn the procedures of the district, to complete required paperwork, and to become acquainted with the lifestyle and culture of our region. The full staff inservice allowed staff to pick and choose from a variety of conference style workshops presented by district personnel. The inservice concluded with training on AIMSweb and the Alaska Computerized Formative Assessment (ACFA) systems which will allow teachers to



High school science teacher, Kyle Casper, from New Stuyahok presents on the scientific method at the all staff inservice.

monitor student progress more frequently than the yearly Standards Based Assessments (SBA) and High School Qualifying Exit Exam (HSGQE).

Curriculum Support

New resources were selected last year and adopted by the school board at the May meeting for Middle School and High School Language Arts. These materials were purchased and shipped to sites before the first teacher work day. The district will be reviewing the district wide K-12 Science curriculum this year, in addition to cleaning up holes in the Reading, Writing, and Math area not previously addressed.



Southwest Region Schools, Teacher of the Year 2007-2008, Patricia Wick. Trish is a middle school teacher from Togiak.

eRate

Since the last board meeting in May, our applications for this school year's service continues to remain under "Initial Review". During June, we received four (4) Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) requests for additional information that we responded to. Again, this is normal for our application to not be approved until after the start of the school year.

Our Exit Interview regarding the Disbursement Examination Audit that was conducted by the accounting firm of KPMG took place on June 19th. While we believe that the audit is over, we were contacted last week to resend one of the documents and it was indicated that the Univer-

sal Service Administrative Company (USAC) may have a few additional questions.

While the audit went fairly smooth, one "minor finding" will be written up in the report that will be sent to USAC. This finding is the issue on the Discount Calculation Discrepancy found due to the District's method of calculating the subsidy discount during the 2002 funding year. Using the Free and Reduced Lunch Count District-Wide Average that was documented at the time the district calculated a 90% subsidy level. However, the district should have used the site based student count that would have created a weighted average subsidy level of 86% (This is the level that we used for several years after we did the new base year calculation in 2004, but before we began taking an e-rate survey to bring us back to the 90% subsidy level these past few years). At this time, we don't anticipate any major impact to the district due to this finding.

Student Records/PowerSchool Support

The End of Year NCLB/OASIS Reports were submitted well before the due date of July 15th. This data is used by the State for part of the District's AYP calculations.

The District migrated to a newer version of PowerSchool at the end of the school year. The End of Year "Roll Over" process ran smoothly, and the student schedules appear to be ready for the new school year.

Media Center

The Media Center has been a construction zone this summer. We have new shelves and rearranged office space. Our Media Specialist Shannon Clouse, Media Specialist, will be part time this year, but we plan on offering all of the reading related activities that have been in the past. RIF books should be on site in order to finish off last year's program. Seven (7) of the 8 school sites are already signed up to participate in Battle of the Books.



FEDERAL & STATE PROGRAMS

Jon Clouse, Federal/State Programs Director

Inservice

There is a clear investment of time and resources by district personnel in an effort to create an effective inservice based upon the feedback received from staff across the district. In addition, the inservice was tailored to meet the of the district improvement plan. Teachers have several breakout sessions from which to choose followed by training in AIMSweb formative assessment, Response to Intervention, and the Alaska Computerized Formative Assessment. The leadership inservice for principals and district office staff was very successful in providing a vision for collaboration and analysis of data to increase student achievement. The new hire inservice was also successful and with a culminating trip to Aleknagik Lake in an effort to give the new teachers an "Alaskan" experience and offer a chance to network and build relationships.

NCLB/Title Allocations

The allocations for the NCLB grant were recently released. Southwest Region School District received a total of \$913,550 for the 2008-2009 school year, which is dispersed through the Title grants. The 2008-2009 NCLB checklist was received and is currently being reviewed in order to make necessary revisions and provide clarification where appropriate. After the checklist is reviewed it will be sent into the state for approval.

Migrant Education

Four migrant education recruiters have been hired in order to gather accurate numbers of migrant students across the district. The migrant education recruiters and coordinator are attending migrant education training in Anchorage oc-

curing from August 18th through August 20th. Migrant education recruiting will occur during the months of August through October in order for the results to be submitted to the state by November 15th.



Staff collaboration meetings at the fall inservice.

Other Areas

Besides becoming familiar with the duties and responsibilities of the director of federal and state programs support, I will be working closely with principals on important parent notification requirements, school improvement plans, the transact document service, supplemental education services, boarding home requests, and other programs tied to state and federal funds. In addition, I am currently working on finalizing the 2007-2008 supplemental education services report and E2T2 Wave V grant report.



SPECIAL EDUCATION

Lee Webster, Special Education Coordinator

Projects

Starting my third week in the job as Special Education director, I can report on the projects we have been working on so far. Lisa Andrews, Administrative Assistant, and I have compiled legal documents, advocacy and summaries of Special Education law to send registered packets to all district parents of children with special needs. It is required by law that each parent receive this information each year, but is also allows us to communicate any new laws or regulations and have verification of their receiving the information. These are being sent so that parents will have them prior to school opening.

Preparations for the Start of School

We are also preparing lists of students for teachers. Using the Special Education Automation System (SEAS) allows us to generate re-

ports easily. These have been distributed at the district in-service.

Files Updates

Lisa and I will begin preparing a Special Education file purge after in-service. The files have not been purged in a very long time, judging by how many are stored in the in-active storage cabinets. We will need to go through all of the files and determine when they were exited from the Special Education program. If the student has been exited more than 5 years prior to our review, a notification letter will be sent to the most recently known address of the student to explain our intent to destroy the file. If we do not hear from people within 45 days that they want us to send them the files, we can destroy them. This should allow us to have a much more efficient storage process.



Director of Special Education, Lee Webster, discusses special education procedures with district staff.



EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

Steve Noonkesser, Technology Coordinator

Web Site Improvements

Our web site is being updated and improved. In particular, we have added a number of sections designed to improve communication across the district. A new Leadership Resources area has been added to give site administrators electronic access to all school board policies and district regulations and forms. Areas are also under development to allow teachers electronic access to curriculum materials and discussion groups designed to enhance instruction.



new Learning Links web site

SWRS T4 Project

We are preparing for another year of our laptop program. Student laptops are being prepared by site technology liaisons under the direction of Les Parks, our Technology Specialist. A new round of Parent Nights is also being planned.

New Services for FY09

We have added some new features to our networks and systems. Student computers will soon be outfitted with mobile filtering software to enable filtering of web access in all locations in or out of school. High school students will also have access to a new in-district email system. New video conferencing equipment has also been installed in all schools and training is planned for September.

Planning For 2008-2009

This past spring we received approval for our new three year district educational

technology plan so we are in compliance with in eRate and state regulations.

DISTRICT NEWS



Remember to check your email for a note from Shannon Clouse, our Media Specialist, asking for submissions to SWRS NEWS, our newsletter and read about our students' accomplishments, activities & catch the latest from our schools!



FACILITIES & MAINTENANCE

Rick Dallmann, Maintenance Director

NEW SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION



Construction is nearing the final stages as crews finish the outside of the building and begin finish work inside!

PROJECT IS NEARING COMPLETION!

The new school is on schedule. Roofing is pretty much done siding is nearly completed and cabinets are being installed.

Painting is ongoing and front entrances are being installed and finished.

The new teacher housing is also progressing on schedule.

Manokotak

Work has been going on all summer on new teacher housing units. Two are completed and the other two should be finished by next month.

Koliganek

Housing work is ongoing. New doors were installed at the school.

All Sites

Fire alarm inspections have been completed at all sites and fire extinguishers have been inspected.

Kitchen hoods have been inspected. Water systems have been chlorinated.

Grants

We are working on a Koliganek School replacement. We are also working on heating system replacements in Aleknagik, Clarks Point and Ekwok. Teacher housing is being applied for in Manokotak (8 units) and Togiak (4 units).



New teacher housing units in New Stuyahok.



Cabinets going into classrooms in New Stuyahok.



Aleknagik School

Jeff Ambrosier, Lead Teacher

Last Year

Last year was a successful year for the students and staff in Aleknagik. One of the more significant areas of growth was meeting AYP. We want to thank the students for putting in the effort to meet AYP and look forward to raising the bar in the upcoming year.

This past year included preparing for the school trip which took the 6-8th grade to Hilo Hawaii. The students and staff raised approximately \$25,000. Going to Hawaii with 14 students was a great experience for both the students and staff. Seeing the kids in a different environment was truly a learning experience for everyone. Most of the 6-8 grade class participated not only in 4 different sports at WKK but

also the spelling bee and battle of the books. Our 7-8 team took 2nd in districts and our 3-4 and 5-6 teams took first place in districts.

The Year Ahead of Us

The 2008-2009 school year we will be taking a specific look at our reading scores and addressing significant GLE's to focus on areas of weakness. By aligning each classroom curriculum with specific GLE strands we should be able to bring up those areas where we didn't score as well as we liked. Aleknagik also wants to produce healthy and productive students. We want to create an environment of kindness and we will start this process with the staff modeling this behavior.



William 'Sonny' Nelson School

Stan Dancer, Lead Teacher

Last Year

At the end of the last school year, we said goodbye to Sherrill and Ervine Baird in the form of a farewell potluck. We also presented each of them with engraved gold pans as a token of our appreciation for their dedicated service for the past three years.

Our students taking the SBA's last spring made significant progress by increasing their

percentage in Language Arts from 19% in 2007-2008 to 80%. They also increased their math from 31% to 40%. Our challenge for this year is to continue to improve, especially in math.

The Year Ahead of Us

We welcome Suzan Dancer to our cadre here. You may remember her as Suzan Wiley, former Principal at Koliganek, and a district employee for the past 11 years..



Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School

Herman Gerving, Principal

Last Year

It is with great pleasure that I can inform everyone that Manokotak Nunaniq School made Adequate Yearly Progress for the first time since the No Child Left Behind law was enacted. Parents, community, school and SWRSD should all be very proud of the tremendous accomplishments Manokotak Nunaniq School students made last year.

The Year Ahead of Us

The teachers have been very busy with In-service and preparing their classrooms. The first day of school is August 20, 2008 and we are all excited about the start of another school year.



New Manokotak staff members, Kirsten Schmidt and Lida Storch.



'Chief' Ivan Blunka School

Gene V. Anderson, Principal

The Year Ahead of Us

The staff and students are excited about the new school which is under construction in New Stuyahok. The interior painting is nearing completion and progress can be observed every day. The new school will allow our school to function much more efficiently due to the fact that all students will be under one roof rather than three separate buildings. We are also very excited about the fact that for the first time in 8 years we have been able to meet standards for the state

testing in language arts. We will continue to develop new programs and assistance for the students. Our goal for this school year is to make AYP. We know that the new school will help with this endeavor.

Staff housing is nearing completion as well. The three new structures will be a blessing to the accommodations for the staff. We cannot thank everyone enough for all the hard work that has gone into these projects to help our staff and students learn in a new and much better environment.



Togiak School

H. David Wick, Principal

Last Year

Togiak School made excellent academic progress last year. Once again, Togiak achieved Safe Harbor in the Language Arts and Math areas. The state withheld AYP status due to our graduation rate which was down slightly from the previous year.

The Year Ahead of Us

This current year, we will address our graduation rate issue with the implementation of a new alternative high school program within our existing high school program. It is our goal to reach out to those students that have been unable to progress through the regular channels to graduation. We will continue all of our previous successful programs and continue to work toward enhancement of all our educational programs for the benefit and advancement of all the Togiak School students.



Togiak teachers, Jamie LeCount and Tara Balice at the all staff inservice.



Director of Administrative Services, Lee Ann Andrew, presents at inservice on financial planning for staff.