

To: Kuspuk School District School Board
From: Emily Vanderpool, Curriculum and Instruction/Testing
Re: Board Meeting Report
Meeting Date: 7 March 2019

ASTE (Alaska Society for Technology in Education) Conference

This year through Title 1 grant money we were able to send 5 teachers and the Technology Director to this annual conference, known to be one of the best in the state. At the conference, teachers spent time in workshops and training sessions where they learned different methods of incorporating 21st century technology in the classroom, as well as networked with other teachers, and technology experts across the state. They got to see samples of the latest and greatest technology available to students. A big feature of this year's conference was on robotics, which our district plans to get involved with during the coming year as we have 3 teachers who will be receiving lego robotics kits to try and get the program off the ground.

Battle of the Books

The district-wide tournaments for Battle of the Books were hosted between February 4th-15th. Preparations for these battles began first semester as students read 12-15 books, depending on the grade level. Beginning in November, teachers held Zoom practice battles, so students could become familiar to the question/answer format and other "battle" rules. A heart-felt thank you is extended to the teachers and para-professionals that support Battle of the Books in their schools.

Following are the schools, coaches and students of the KSD winning teams.

District Battle Results:

Grades K-2, Auntie Mary Nicoli Elem. School
Coaches: Emerie Fairbanks, Okie Morgan, and Jane Robinson
Students: Zaidee Morgan, Ronnie Vanderpool, Charlie Nelson

Grades 3-4, Auntie Mary Nicoli Elem. School
Coach: Carol Sievers
Students: Ryder Vanderpool, Alana Kelila, Dorothy Nelson
Alt. Jack Boelens

Grades 5-6, Jack Egnaty Sr. School
Coach: Angela Hayden
Students: Kayla Effemka, Kiley Hayden, and Neal Sandford

Grades 7-8 George Morgan Sr. High School
Coaches: Eric Wolford
Students: Runner Jarrett



PEAKS Testing

I attended the state District Test Coordinator training in Anchorage on February 12th-13th. We learned about changes that have been made to the test this year, and other important information in regards to test administration. I will be providing training to all district test proctors on Wednesday, March 20th to get them ready for the upcoming test. Meanwhile, teachers have access to the Online Test Tools to prepare their students for the testing format. Students, parents, and community members can access the online test tools from any computer/device with **Google Chrome**.

To access the Online Test Tools:

1. Go to ak.drceirect.com
2. **Scroll down a bit until you see “Online Tools Training (OTT)”**
3. **No login is necessary. Just follow the directions, and click the link.**

School Improvement Update

Our State Support Coaches visited their assigned sites during February. Pat McDonald spent time at Crooked Creek and the District Office, while Carol Thompson spent her time in Kalskag. Staff at all the schools have been working on getting their school improvement plans ready to submit to the state. This will be done no later than March 15th, but likely earlier.

On February 19th, Johnnie John hosted a community input meeting and potluck. The input meeting had 20 people attending, 2 were certified teachers, 1 was the administrator, 1 was a School Improvement Coach and 16 others were community members. At the meeting they discussed their vision for Johnnie John Sr. School, and brainstormed ideas for community/school partnership, attendance, and improving student achievement. It also gave community members an opportunity to ask the staff and teachers questions and come up with ideas for increasing communication. Overall, it was a great step towards getting parents and community members involved with new school improvement efforts.

Elementary Math Samples

During the first couple weeks in March, samples of our top two elementary math curriculum choices will be sent to every school site for community and parent input. Please take the time to look through the materials and fill out the short feedback forms to help the committee make the best possible decision for our students.