

Aniak Schools  
October Board Report  
Todd Boynton

**Auntie Mary Nicoli Elementary School**

The elementary hosted our first Dojo Party celebrating positive behaviors in September. Those students with enough positive behaviors, on a Friday afternoon, had the opportunity to choose between playing soccer, badminton and other gym games, and watching a movie. Those students that did not have enough Dojo points worked on completing schoolwork. Our reading buddies program has begun as well. Fifth and sixth-grade students pair up with kindergarten and first-grade students to read together. To go along with a social studies unit, the reading buddies are also creating a three-dimensional map of Aniak made out of recycled boxes.

We were unable to find a new teacher for the second-grade class. Because of this, we have rearranged the elementary and are now running a combined kindergarten and first-grade class. This was primarily due to class size. We will continue to search for an additional teacher. We feel the best way for Aniak students to meet District's Strategic Plan goal of increasing student performance is to begin students with a sound educational base in Kindergarten and First Grade. A separate teacher for Kindergarten and First Grade will greatly help to reach our goal.

**Aniak Junior/Senior High School**

During the month of September, YKHC sent presenters to Aniak Junior/Senior High School to help educate students on diabetes, tobacco, and behavioral health. The first round of progress reports before eligibility check resulted in many students increasing their grades. In addition to core academic subjects, students have had the opportunity to learn about photography in art class, video making in technology class, and supplies have been ordered to make Qaspeqs in our Yup'ik studies course.

Towards the end of September, Aniak hosted the Regional Cross Country meet. We're proud of Braden Dallmann winning the boys regional and running at the State meet. The wrestling and volleyball seasons are underway. Aniak is hoping to repeat last year's feat of sending at least a member of each sports team to their respective State Championship.

## **Alaska Cross Content Conference**

I thoroughly enjoyed my experience at the Alaska Cross Content Conference and feel as though I'm able to bring a lot back to the teachers. The first session I attended focused on teacher evaluation from the lens of the Danielson Framework and the ability to answer the five questions for effective instruction.

1. What do we want our students to know and be able to do?
2. How will we teach them?
3. How will we know if they have learned it?
4. What will we do if they haven't learned it yet?
5. What will we do if they already know it?

The next session was about using Dog Mushing as a Teaching Tool. Aliy Zirkle reviewed a variety of lessons that she has collaborated with classroom teachers on. I received an overview of the math program ALEKS, Google Classroom, and Farm to School programs. Aleks is a program that we are currently looking at as a part of the math adoption committee. Google Classroom is being utilized both at the high school and elementary level here in Aniak. It's an alternative way to deliver content and assignments to students. Farm to School programs aims to increase student learning about healthy foods and deliver those foods to school lunch programs. The final session I attended focused on the Alaska Sea Grant. This group has created Alaskan focused Science units that are hands-on, project-based lessons that would be easily incorporated into our science lessons.

**Minutes: Aniak School Advisory Committee**  
**August 10, 2017**

The Aniak School Advisory Committee (SAC) met at the high school lobby on 8/10/17. A quorum was established; President Darlene Holmberg called the meeting to order at 6:18 pm.

In attendance: SAC members: Darlene Holmberg, Carrie Longpre; Aniak Principal Todd Boynton; Teacher Representative Julia Fischer Boynton. Absent: Vince Winter (illness).

The minutes of the 5/31/17 SAC meeting were unanimously approved.

Having an Aniak School Calendar was discussed. Todd is currently using Google calendar to work on a school calendar that will be shared with SAC members and the school staff.

**Old Business:**

1. Parent Night at the High School (Developmental Asset Training)—The group discussed having a family night with parents/family and students in attendance, the goal being to help facilitate family awareness of students' after-high-school career goals, and increase awareness of resources available to encourage those interests. AKCIS and developmental assets training could be incorporated into the evening. The group agreed to table the topic until Todd has a chance to talk to staff.
2. New Teacher Meet and Greet—The group suggested a community meal or gathering to both introduce the 7 new staff members to the community and also welcome returning staff. Three possible dates were discussed (Aug. 20, Sunday, 4-5 pm; Sept. 14, Thursday, 5:30-6:30 pm; Sept. 21, Thursday, 5:30-6:30 pm). Todd will present dates to the school staff and select one, and report back to the SAC at the next meeting

**New Business:**

1. SAC Elections—the recently revised SAC board policy lays out a different timeline than previous policy. Discussion included following the current policy timeline exactly, with the idea that if it doesn't work, feedback and suggestions for further revision could be forwarded to the district board's policy committee.

**Comments:**

One comment was brought up—concern about the Math-Science Expedition starting on the very first day of school and the difficulty that could pose both for Expedition students missing the first days of instruction/ground rules, and for teachers having to re-teach content to Expedition students and also the academic effect on the students who were in attendance from the beginning of school. The principal said there has been some discussion of flex scheduling, which is one way EXCEL schedule could be aligned with the school academic schedule.

**Future Meetings:**

Back in May, the SAC group expressed a desire to meet regularly in the 2017-18 school year. The principal proposed monthly meetings, occurring on the first Monday of each month, with the meeting bumped ahead a week if there a holiday occurred on that Monday. The group decided to try this schedule out for the first semester and to review it at the December meeting. The first semester SAC meetings are set for September 11, October 2, November 6, December 4. Teaching staff representation was also discussed—possibly teaching staff would rotate attending SAC meetings.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm.**

**Minutes: Aniak School Advisory Committee**  
September 11, 2017

The Aniak School Advisory Committee (SAC) met at the high school lobby on September 11, 2017. A quorum was established; President Darlene Holmberg called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.

In attendance: SAC members: Darlene Holmberg, Carrie Longpre, Vince Winter; Aniak Principal Todd Boynton; Community Members: Leslie Boelens, Pam Grieve, Cheryl Aloysius, Guinevere Aloysius, Charlie Nelson.

The minutes of the 8/10/17 SAC meeting were unanimously approved.

**Aniak Schools Calendar**

Todd invited (on email) all SAC members to join the Aniak school's Google calendar. This invite is best received if recipients are on gmail – this could be the explanation for why some SAC members received the invite and some did not. There was some discussion of who should have the calendar; one potential problem issue is that because the calendar is a work-in-progress, some events will change which could cause confusion in the community. Avoiding confusion could be a reason to limit who gets the calendar. Todd will look into printing a tentative school calendar. Two upcoming calendar events were noted:

- 1) Aniak is hosting cross-country regionals in 2 weeks (Sept. 22--travel day; Sat, 23--race)
- 2) Kuspuk inservice will be held on October 19-20

**School Advisory Committee Board Policy**

Todd handed out the Kuspuk Board Policy (BP) regarding school advisory committees (Article 8, Series 8000, adopted 8/13/15). There was discussion of the committee orientation training described in BP 8310. All three SAC members desire this orientation. Todd will look into it.

**Officer Elections**

Election is September 29, so far no candidates have declared. It was discussed that we could all help recruit potential members by spreading the word about the two open seats.

**Old Business**

The proposed New Teacher Meet and Greet/Welcome Back Community Meal—for a variety of reasons, this idea is cancelled. Both schools will be having open houses for parents of students; AMNES open house is September 13, Wednesday (5-6:30 pm), and AJSHS open house is September 20, 2017 (5-6:30 pm).

**New Business**

The School Climate and Connectedness Survery (SCCS) will not be conducted this year; Speak Up will replace it.

The school plans to open up the parent portal of Power School during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter (which starts October 23).

## **Comments**

### **Principal**

Todd has noticed frustrations posted on Facebook about how teachers used to do more. He noted that in the past there were more teachers; staff reductions have had an affect on how much the school can offer. For example, elective offerings are affected; reduced staff numbers mean reduced services that can be provided.

### **Advisory School Board**

Vince—conveyed parent concerns about blanket permission slips; he knows there were also some concerns about the annual school berry picking trip. There was discussion about the safety concerns that caused the berry trip to be cancelled, and the substitute field trip activity. He also talked about how excitement about learning seems to be in place at the elementary school; he spoke favorably about the DOJO system. He would like to see the same excitement at the high school.

Carrie—referred to the Parent Night at the High School (with Developmental Asset Training) that was tabled at the August 10, 2017 meeting. She expressed the hope that the SAC will hear more about that once Todd and the staff have time to discuss it.

### **Audience**

Leslie brought up the concern about the raft trip corresponding to the beginning of school. There was some discussion about flex scheduling for the future as a way to offer the valuable opportunity of the trip while minimizing the disruption to school.

There was some discussion about the affect of student loss of class time on academic performance. It was brought up that students being out for trips also affects student workers (sometimes they aren't able to give much notice at work). There was discussion about how kids are able to make up work (ex: internet tools). There was also a concern expressed that weekly early releases add up over the year to a significant amount of instruction time lost.

Cheryl—asked for an update about the 2<sup>nd</sup> grader teacher position. Todd spoke of many hiring attempts; currently an interim teacher has been employed for about the first month of school. Cheryl also asked about counseling resources available to students after the tragic August shooting. Todd spoke about the resources that were made available to the high school students through YKHC.

There was discussion about whether the Aniak schools have a guidance counselor. Kuspuk has one counselor; his duties are focused on career guidance.

There was a question about the runway construction and how it will affect AJSHS. Some had hoped the new runway would mean there will be a new school, but that will not be the case. There was a notch cut out of map and HS is now ok to keep. Regardless of runway place, the district will lose Joe Parent Vocational Center (JPVC) on 2020.

The next SAC meeting will be held on October 2, 2017 at 6 pm at the high school. The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm.