

**To: Kuspuk School District School Board**  
**From: Emily Vanderpool, Curriculum and Instruction/District Test Coordinator**  
**Re: Board Meeting Report**  
**Meeting Date: 18 February 2020**

### **January In-service**

Teachers returned to work on January 9th for two days of on-site in-service. Most sites spent time analyzing first semester data, and making instructional plans for third quarter. The district provided training on State Testing, and we had outside presenter and Anchorage Pediatrician, Dr. Matthew Hirschfield, give a presentation on ACES, and trauma-informed practices. Sites were given time to work on revising school-wide practices to be more sensitive to all of our students, and especially students who may have experienced trauma.

### **Response to Intervention (RTI) Conference & School Improvement Planning for Comprehensive Support Intervention (CSI) Schools**

January 24-26, 15 KSD teachers and administrators were able to attend the RTI conference in Anchorage. This is one of the best professional development opportunities the state provides annually, with top-notch presenters, and many great session options for all areas of school improvement including Early Literacy, Reading and Writing interventions, math, technology, and social & emotional learning.

The day before the conference, as part of our School Improvement Planning Grant, the District CSI Team, and School CSI teams met to begin the work on our school improvement plans for next school year. Facilitated by myself, with the help of our SSOS Coaches Pat McDonald, and Carol Thompson the teams worked in site groups (GMSHS, JOGES, ZLES, AJSHS, and JJSS)



**Kalskag Teacher, Stephanie Daub with Visible Literacy Guru, Doug Fischer**



**School Improvement Teams hard at work!**

to really focus in on both district-wide, and site-based goals for school improvement. The schools are required to work on certain indicators (chosen by the state), but are also allowed to pick areas of school improvement they would like to focus on.

Prior to the planning meeting, District Leaders met for an additional

2 hours to work on a needs assessments for each school, and aligning site goals with district improvement efforts. A big shout-out to Gretchen Kelly, Severin Gardner, and Madeline Aguillard for putting in the extra hours above and beyond work hours to make sure we got school improvement planning off on the right foot. We have until March 15<sup>th</sup> to submit our school improvement plans & grant applications to the state. Due to the state's timeline, some of the interventions we are planning won't go into effect until the new school year starts. Some of the main areas we are looking to address include; academic growth in ELA & Math, strategies for working with EL students, chronic absenteeism, extra curricular/STEM/cultural opportunities, and increased graduation rate.

### **Alaska Comprehensive Literacy Development Grant**

On January 27th, I attended the first mandatory AK CLSD grant workshop, along with district administrators Severin Gardner, and Madeline Aguillard. The workshop was an intense day of learning, and planning to make sure we are ready to fully and properly implement the CLSD grant activities and spend the funds correctly. Our first order of business will be to post and hire the Literacy Coach position. I will also need to spend some time presenting the overview of grant activities to all district staff. As I mentioned in my January presentation, the following are our 5 year goals for the program:

- 1) By May 2025, the number of KSD students in grades 3-5 who are proficient on the PEAKS ELA Assessment will double as compared to 2019 PEAKS results. 1b. The number of students in grades K-12 who are proficient on STAR Reading Assessment will double as compared to 2019 Results.
- 2) By May 2025, the discrepancy between English Learners scores and all students will decrease by 50% on the PEAKS English Language Arts Assessment as compared to the 2019 PEAKS results discrepancy.
- 3) By May 2025, 100% of teachers assigned to K-5 classrooms will be proficient in teaching foundational skills in reading and designing interventions to match student needs.
- 4) By May, 2021 and continuing for each school year to 2025, seven Kuspuk elementary schools will hold eight monthly family engagement meetings annually with a literacy focus and 50% parent attendance.

## State Assessments

Students identified as English Learners (EL) will be assessed with ACCESS for ELLs 2.0. The full title of this assessment explains its purpose: *Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State for English Language Learners*. ACCESS score results and growth on ACCESS are two of the measures used to determine whether or not the district is meeting our goals for our 1003a School Improvement Grant.

As Test Coordinator, I have been overseeing the delivery of test materials and providing required training for all test administrators and proctors via Zoom Meeting. The testing window for the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 test is February 1<sup>st</sup>-March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## District Battle of the Books

The District Battles were held the first week of February. Winning teams will compete in the state battles at the end of the month. Good luck to all!



**GMSHS & AJSHS School Improvement Teams working on their School Improvement grant applications.**



**State Support Coach, Carol Thompson, working with School Improvement Teams from Zackar Levi Elementary, and Joseph & Olinga Gregory Elementary.**