

**To: Kuspuk School District School Board**  
**From: Emily Vanderpool, Curriculum and Instruction, District Test Coordinator**  
**Re: Board Meeting Report**  
**Meeting Date: March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Professional Development Opportunity:**  
**ASTE (Alaska Society for Technology in Education) Conference**

The school improvement grant allowed us to send teachers and administrators to this annual conference, known to be one of the best in the state. This year we were able to send Abiegail Parker of JOGES, Alba Aviles of GMSHS, and SpEd Director Madeline Aguillard. At the conference, teachers spent time in workshops and training sessions where they learned different methods of incorporating 21<sup>st</sup> century technology in the classroom, as well as networked with other teachers, and technology experts across the state. They were also able to see demos of programs that we may be interested in adopting for supplemental materials to help us achieve our literacy and math goals.

**Battle of the Books**

The district-wide tournaments for Battle of the Books were hosted between February 4th-10th. Preparations for these battles began first semester as students read 12-15 books, depending on the grade level. Beginning in November, teachers held VTC 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, para-professionals, and parent volunteers who support Battle of the Books in their schools. Following are the schools, coaches and students of the KSD winning teams.

**District Battle Results:**



Grades 5-6, Auntie Mary  
Nicoli Elementary School  
Coach: Julia Boynton  
Students: Alana Kelila  
Dorothy Nelson, Ryder  
Vanderpool. Alternate:  
Jenner Peacock  
***\*Finished 13<sup>th</sup> at state!***

Grades 7-8, Jack Egnaty Sr.  
School  
Coach: Sheree Smith  
Students: Desirae Morgan

Grades K-2, Auntie Mary Nicoli Elem. School  
Coaches: Emerie Fairbanks, Brenda Dailey, and Okie  
Morgan  
Students: Crim Phillips, Tilly Morgan, and Zaidee Morgan

(Note: AkASL does not hold a  
state level competition for  
students in grades K-2 as  
they are emerging readers.)

Grades 3-4, Auntie Mary Nicoli Elem. School  
Coach: Larissa Heckathorn  
Students: Ursula Mangrobang, Jack Boelens, Jayden  
Brown  
***\*Finished 6<sup>th</sup> at state!***

## **PEAKS Testing**

I attended the state District Test Coordinator training in Anchorage on February 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>. 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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.drctdirect.com](http://ak.drctdirect.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.**

## **Teacher Recruitment**

I have been working with a team to pursue potential candidates for teaching and administrative positions in the district. At this time we’ve held several interviews, and issued and received one signed letter of intent, and are working to schedule more interviews prior to the Anchorage & Oregon job fairs.

## **School Improvement**

I submitted all grant application documents for our CSI (Comprehensive Support Intervention) and TSI (Targeted Support Intervention Schools) to AK DEED on Friday February 28<sup>th</sup>. They are currently under review, and we should be hearing back from the state within the next month. Thanks to the school improvement teams from GMSHS, ZLES, JOGES, AJSHS, and JJSS for putting in the extra time to design their school improvement plans. Also a big thanks to state support coach Pat McDonald for continually supporting all schools in getting their STEPP plans updated, documents completed, and timelines met.

## **Possible Partnership with Calista Workforce Development**

On February 26<sup>th</sup>, I met with School Board President Harvey Hoffman and Jacqueline Garcia of Calista Corporation. She presented to us on the possibility of starting an apprenticeship program in our district for instructional aides that are interested in getting a teaching degree. This program sounds promising, and I believe they will be contacting us about presenting to the full school board. When we met we discussed starting small to get the program running, and for the first year the goal would be to get at least one interested instructional aide from each region of the district (Kalskag, Aniak, and Upriver) to participate in the apprenticeship. For the aide, it would mean taking one class every 8 weeks, and would take 2 years for an Associates Degree, and 4 years for a Bachelor’s Degree & Teacher Certificate. The overarching goal would be to grow our own local teachers, and help people attain the skills necessary for higher paying jobs in the region.