



Southwest Region School District

Presentation to the House Education
Committee

March 12, 2012 - 8:00AM

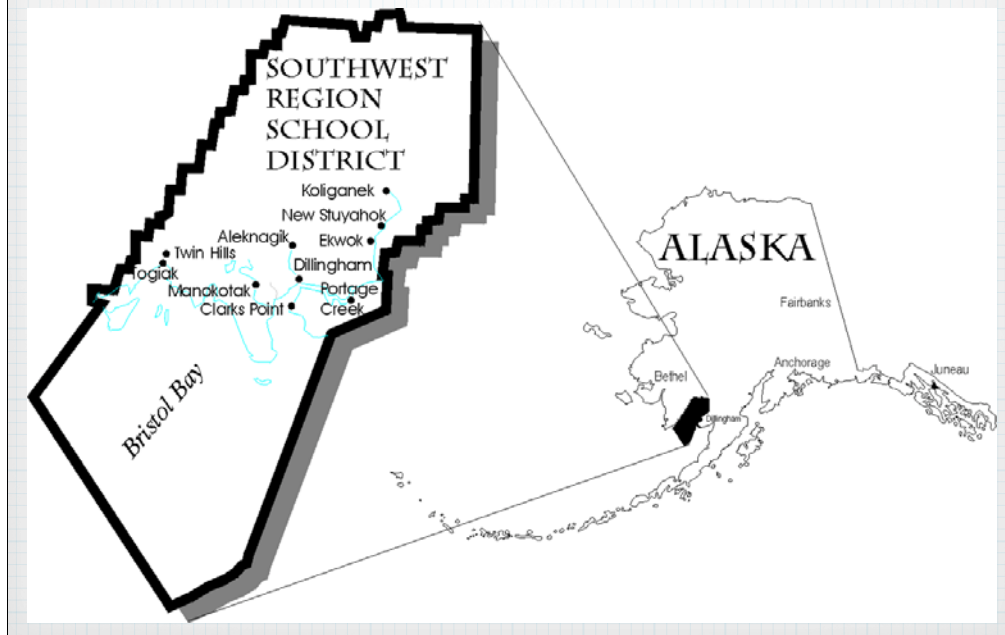
David J. Piazza

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For the record, my name is David Piazza and I am the Superintendent for the Southwest Region School District.

Good morning Chairman Dick and members of the House Education Committee. It is with pleasure today, that I am able to share with you a snapshot of our students, staff and communities.

Southwest Region School District



Southwest Region School District is currently comprised of 8 remote schools located in the communities surrounding, but not including the Bristol Bay Regional Hub of Dillingham in Southwestern Alaska. The District Office is located in Dillingham.

REAA

- Approximately 632 Students
- Four K-8 Schools
 - Koliganek - 62
 - Manokotak - 121
 - New Stuyahok - 151
 - Togiak - 229
- Four K-12 Schools
 - Aleknagik - 31
 - Clarks Point - 11
 - Ekwok - 11
 - Twin Hills - 16
- Portage Creek Closed 2006
- Seven Member School Board
- Local advisory Community School Committees



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The District is organized by the State as a Rural Education Attendance Area and serves approximately 632 students in four K-8 schools and four K-12 schools.

The District is governed by a 7 member school board selected by the voters from the 8 communities.

The regional school board is advised by local 3 to 5 member Community School Committees.

Here students from the “Chief” Ivan Blunka School in New Stuyahok recite the Pledge of

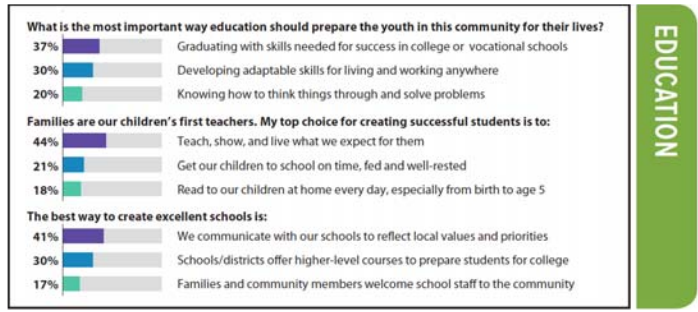
Board Goals

- ✿ Establish Long Term Vision
(School Improvement-STEPP)
- ✿ Board Professional Development (Budget)
- ✿ Focus on better communication with parents
and communities
- ✿ Provide consistency between schools
- ✿ Academic growth for ALL students



The Board has established 5 primary goals for the District.

Bristol Bay Visioning Alaska STEPP



The School Board and District utilize the results provided by the recently completed Bristol Bay Area Visioning project as well as school improvement planning tools provided by the Alaska Department of Education.

AASB School Climate and Connectedness Survey

2. High Expectations

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Agree Some, Disagree Some	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Mean
High Expectations: Collated Results	42% (271)	35% (461)	19% (252)	3% (40)	1% (12)	4.15

3. School Safety

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Agree Some, Disagree Some	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Mean
School Safety: Collated Results	39% (278)	32% (420)	19% (250)	6% (80)	4% (51)	3.95

5. Respectful Climate

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Agree Some, Disagree Some	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Mean
Respectful Climate: Collated Results	18% (211)	39% (481)	31% (353)	8% (97)	5% (58)	3.58

The District also utilizes the Association of Alaska School Board's Climate and Connectedness Student and Staff Survey results to gauge successes in addition to academic test results.

Regional Coordination Efforts

- * Bristol Bay SD
- * Dillingham City SD
- * Lake & Peninsula SD
- * Southwest Alaska Vocational & Education Center

- * Southwest Region SD
- * Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation
- * University of Alaska - Bristol Bay Campus



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Southwest Region Schools has had long term positive working relationships with the Dillingham City School District and the Bristol Bay Campus. Additional sharing between the 4 regional school district's has occurred previously. New efforts to coordinate Regional Health Services and Vocational Education opportunities have been pursued this year.

New Schools



“Chief” Ivan Blunka
School - New
Stuyahok (2009)

Togiak School (2004)



Manokotak ‘Nunaniq’
School (2001)

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The students, staff and communities of Southwest Region School District have benefitted from recent New School Construction.

Manokotak 2001

Togiak 2004

New Stuyahok 2009

Koliganek Construction



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As one of the named villages in the settlement of the Kasayulie case, the community of Koliganek looks forward to the construction of a new facility to replace its .

High Quality Staff



Kyle Casper
Teacher
of the Year



Denise Coopchiak
Instructional Aide
of the Year



Martha Foster
Classified Staff Member
of the Year

Three of six
30-Year
Employees



Anuska Ayojiak
Grace Gamechuk
Tatianna Andrew

The district has caring and dedicated staff members who work tirelessly to meet the needs of students.

Recent Graduates

- * 32 HS Diploma's
- * 10 Certificates
- * 3 December 2011 mid-year diplomas awarded



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Southwest Region School District awarded 32 High School Diploma's last year. What is often not reported or lost in the fine print of High School Graduation Rates are the students who take longer to complete the graduation requirements including the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam. Southwest has recently awarded three additional diploma's.

Curriculum Development



The district has renewed and strengthened efforts the past three years following the State's Curriculum Framework to audit and establish curriculum fully aligned with Alaska Standards and Grade Level Expectations (GLE) for Reading, Writing, and Mathematics.

Instructional Aide Inservice



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To ensure consistent delivery of District curricula, the District utilized ARRA funds to increase Teacher and Instructional Aide inservicing this year. This was the first time in over 14 years that all instructional aides received extensive hands-on training on the correct use of current curricular resources. Instructional Aides also received training on the use of laptop computers and digital cameras to assist them in helping to document our progress at sites.

1-To-1 Technology



- ✿ 9-12 Take Home Laptops
- ✿ 6-8 Classroom Use Laptops
- ✿ K-5 Desktop Units (Almost 1-to-1)

The District is into its sixth year following the implementation of AASB's Consortium for Digital Learning project. The district used SFSSF funds to refresh the District's One-to-One technology program and to expand the availability of technological tools to more students.

Yup'ik Instruction Language & Culture



High School
Yup'ik Instruction



Elementary
End of Year Ceremony

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One of the School Board Goals this year has been to revitalize the Yup'ik Language and Culture programs in the District. A director level administrative position has been created and staffed. A district-wide Yupik Studies Curriculum Development team has been established and is working to develop local, relevant instructional materials based on the traditional seasonal cycle. New teachers participate in a year-long multicultural class to understand the regional Yup'ik lifestyle and learning needs and to meet state certification requirements.

Youth Leadership



School Council
Lunch Time Meeting



Youth Leadership Summit
Debate Workshop

The District has enhanced the school council through the implementation of several Youth Leadership Summits. This District is also proud of the fact that Tiarna Fischler from the Manokotak 'Nunaniq' school sits as the student advisor on the State Board of Education & Early Development.

School Lunch



Food Service
Compliance Training



Fresh Fruit &
Vegetable Program



Serving
Lunch

Students have access to nutritious meals provided by the District. The District has coordinated efforts through various grant programs to include fresh fruits and vegetables for snacks and as part of the lunch service.

Fish for Kids Program



Staff and students from Head Start,
Dillingham City Schools, Southwest Region
Schools and Peter Pan Seafoods

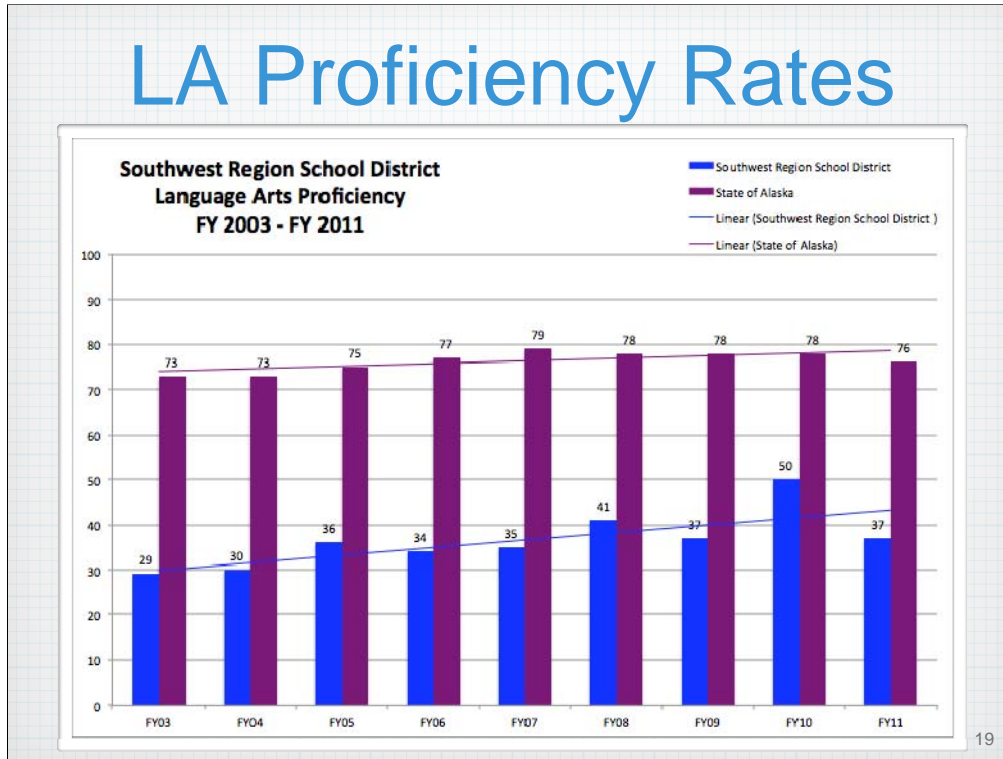


Sophie Walcott, New
Stuyahok
Got Fish?

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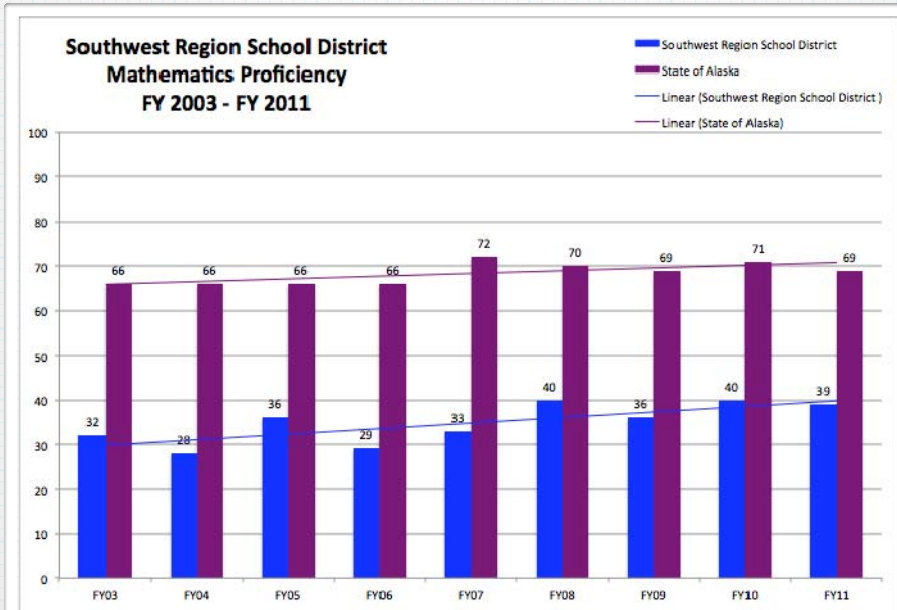
Southwest Region Schools partners with Peter Pan Seafoods and the regional fishermen who donate a portion of their catch for the school lunch program. Salmon is served most Fridays.

LA Proficiency Rates



The District is proud that through its efforts positive trends in student achievement are being realized. While the students and staff have a tremendous amount of work ahead, its promising to see that with a consistent group effort that gains are possible.

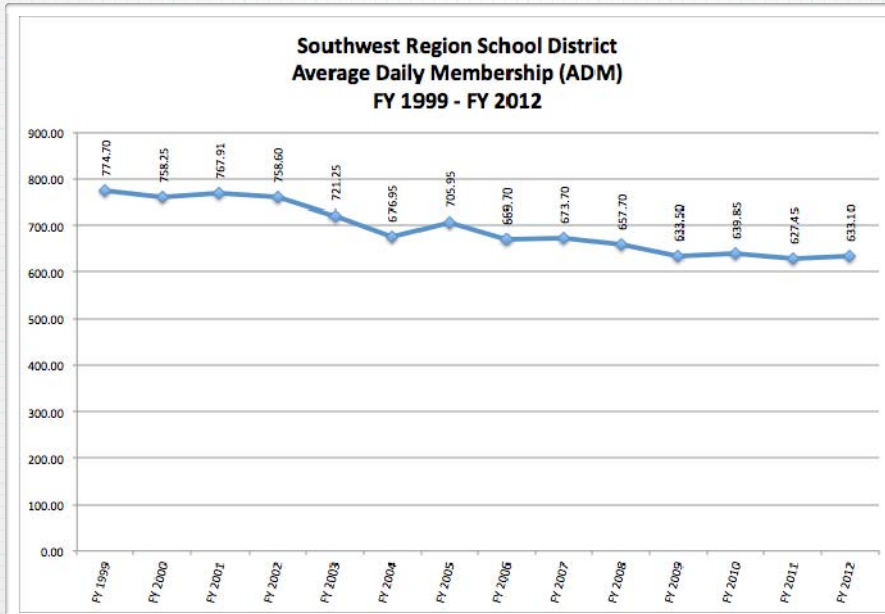
Math Proficiency Rates



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A similar positive achievement trend is demonstrated by students scores in Mathematics.

Student Enrollment Trends



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The District has potential challenges to overcome. Like many rural communities, those in the Southwest Region School District are shrinking over time.

Closing Schools

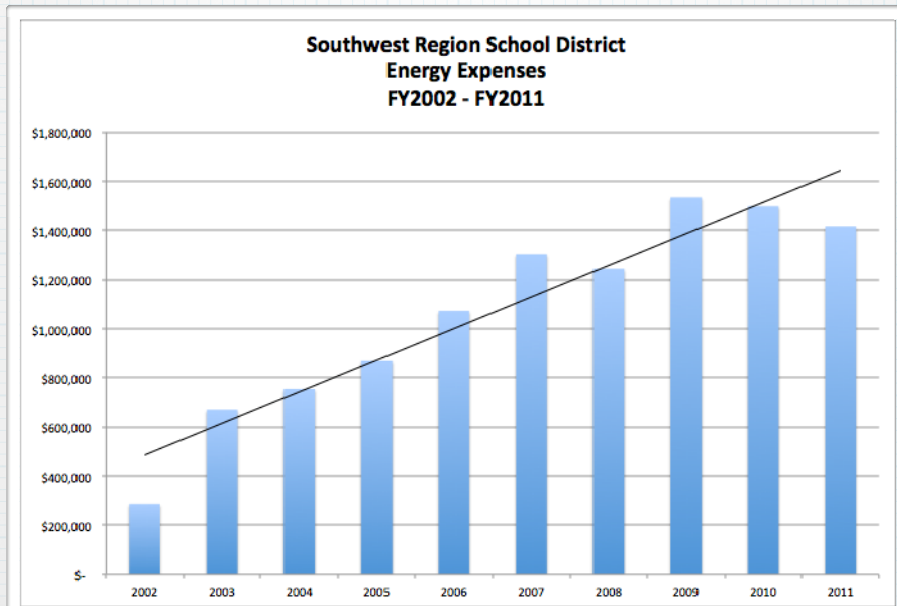


Clarks Point School

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Current student projections for the Clarks Point School of 6 students for the next school year will most likely force the school to close. The William “Sonny” Nelson School in Ekwok is also on the verge of closure due to low student counts.

Energy Expenses



High energy costs continue to impact the availability of funds for the instructional program.

Increased Transportation Costs

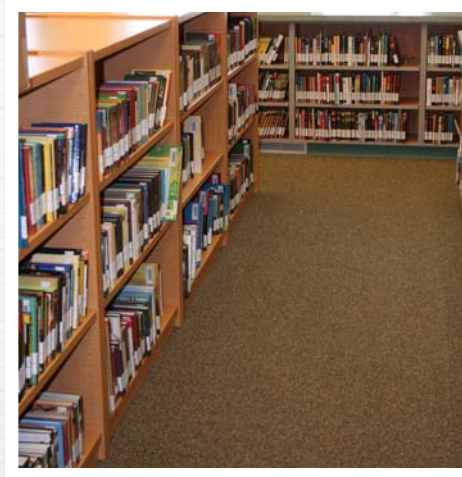
- * Less Student Participation
- * Less On-Site Travel by District Office Personnel.
- * Less Goods to cover increased shipping costs.



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Increased transportation costs limit the number of students who may participate in academic or athletic events. On-site staff inservices and the ability for staff to travel to and from the schools has sharply declined. The cost of shipping continues to rise. It is usually the case that the shipping of student textbooks, paper, and school cleaning supplies is more than the costs of the products being purchased.

Staff Reductions



Well Stocked Libraries

While the District Media Specialist has worked very hard the past few years to make sure that our libraries are organized and functional for students and teachers, the schools do not have the staff resources to hire local staff to manage the day-to-day library functions.

Instructional Program Challenges

- * No Coordinated Arts Programs
- * No MS/HS Music Programs
- * Vocational Education Classes are limited to Wood and Metal Shop
- * No Business Education, Home Economics, Health Occupation, or Fisheries

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As the district focuses resources on the core academic subjects of Reading, Writing and Mathematics, the time and resources for teaching other content is not available.

Adequate Educational Funding



2011 Promotion Ceremony at
William "Sonny" Nelson (Ekwok) K-8 School

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Whether schools receive funding through a multi-year approach or one-time revenue streams, the State must continue to provide adequate funding to ensure that all students have access to safe buildings, up-to-date educational resources, and the staff necessary to implement a 21st century learning environment if we are to continue to make positive educational gains.

School Board

Kay Andrews
President

Marie Paul
Vice President

Ferdinand Sharp
Secretary/Treasurer

Steven Gosuk, Jr.
Member

Helen Gregorio
Member

Wassillie Gust
Member

Wassillie Wonhola
Member



Contact

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Mission

The Southwest Region School District is committed to all students receiving an education that continuously affirms human diversity, that validates the history and culture of all ethnic groups, that is based on high expectation for academic success for every student, and that encourages students and parents active participation.

Thank you for allowing me to share a bit of the Southwest Region School District story with you. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.