

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

To: UCSD BOARD OF EDUCATION

From: Darrell J. Sanborn Superintendent

Date: 08/22/00

First, I would like to say that I am really happy to be here!! I am getting settled into my office, and at home. And I should say that I am feeling comfortable, as I have had the opportunity to meet and visit with a number of folks and students. I have enjoyed it!! I have been most impressed with the support of the community for our children. The whole community, the city, the various businesses, corporations, parents, all have worked hard over the years to make Unalaska a great place to raise kids.

In the event that you have not been out to the Aleut Culture Camp, Camp Qungaayux, please take the opportunity to do this. It is, by far the best cultural/educational camp that I have ever seen. And again, what parental and community support!!! It is very unique as it gives all children the opportunity to learn about the Aleut Culture. I see that the Aleut Culture is the strand that holds our diverse community all together. What a way to teach tolerance and understanding.

Attached you will find a long partial listing of completed summer projects that have been completed by our maintenance and custodial staff. I am most impressed with their work ethic and the high standard they maintain. It is nice to see that our entire staff, certificated and classified have such high standards for the benefit of our children.

There was much to do about the Exit Exam. On August 1st, DOE informed us that these results were to be sent to districts on August 15th and if over-night mail didn't get it there by 3:00 P.M., we would have them as a fax at 3:01. We called as many parents and students

as we could contact to share this news. On Monday, the 14th, we received a notice from DOE that this would not happen as CTB McGraw-Hill had "identified inconsistencies in the data files and is unable to transfer the individual student reports." It sounds as though they wondered where their summer went. As soon as we have the results, we will contact the students and parents to share these. I look forward to the statewide results. Also, DOE is taking public comment on these scores until August 24th.

Our enrollment as of last night was 316. This figure does not reflect any of the registration packets that we know have been picked up. I would imagine that here in Unalaska, we will see the enrollment numbers grow steadily and slowly until school starts, with another bump after Labor Day. After that there will be students enrolling throughout the month. Please remember that the only count we are funded at is the one taken during October. A few nights ago, I met a seventh grader from Washington State and his dad. As the three of us toured the facility, Cody wondered how we were able to keep things so nice, as we had no serious vandalism. He talked about how nice the kids were here in Unalaska. His dad also mentioned that his wife visited our website and was surprised to see how high our tests scores were. With the fishing industry changing and the prospect of more affordable housing, they were planning to move up here next year. I encouraged them to consider moving this year. We have advertised our vacant classified positions, but will keep them in temporary status until we get a better idea of what our enrollment will be.

Construction on the new school is actually ahead of schedule. The soccer field and other areas are hydra-seeded, bases for light posts are set, and other things completed that the contractor did not figure would be done until next summer. The good weather has really helped. I would suspect that over the next couple of years, many folks will be second guessing the community's decision to build this school. I also suspect that farther down the road, folks will be very happy that we did build. It is also important to remember that the new school will cost the community 30 cents on the dollar. Not a bad deal.

The week of the 28th is also the time we have our Annual Audit conducted by Altman, Rogers, & Company. Please feel free to stop by and visit with the team at any time that week.

I am looking forward to getting to know and meeting with the staff next week. I am really excited to hear and see kids in the classroom and hallways on the 28th. This is the reason, and reward that all of us receive while we are in this business.