

SCHOOL BOARD HAPPENINGS

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
Darrell J. Sanborn

DATE: November 27, 2000

SUBJECT: November Regular School Board Meeting

The Board of Education of the Unalaska City School District met in the library of the school in Unalaska on Wednesday, November 22, 2000. Board President, Joanna Aldridge called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Guests were introduced.

RECOGNIZED:

For presenting fire safety classes to our students:

1. Eddie Athey (Unalaska Fire Department)
2. Shari Coleman (Unalaska Fire Department)
3. Roger Defendall (Unalaska Fire Department)
4. Gary Gray (Unalaska Fire Department)
5. Dave Gregory (Unalaska Fire Department)
6. Bill Hughes (Unalaska Fire Department)
7. Zack Schasteen (Unalaska Fire Department)
8. Rick Thibodeau (Unalaska Fire Department)
9. Ramona Thompson (Unalaska Fire Department)

For conducting fire and helmet safety classes and donating helmets to our students:

1. Unalaska Fire Department * Mr. Dave Gregory accepted these certificates for his colleagues and shared with the Board the pleasure they receive in working with students.

The Board took the following actions:

1. Approved the October 19th minutes as amended.
2. Approved FY 01 Budget Revision
3. Approved October Financial Report
4. Approved Unalaska City School District's Technology Plan with the understanding that this be re-visited by the Technology Committee and the Strategic Planning Process.

1. Approved a request, with positive recommendations from the Indian Education Parent Committee, from UAF's Interior-Aleutians Campus to use pictures of Andrew Gronholt's visor and other art objects housed in the School.

The Board Heard the Following Reports:

1. **Superintendent's Report (Please see attached)**
2. **Principal's Report (Please see attached)**
3. **Student Representative's Report (Please see attached)**
4. **Curriculum/Testing Update by Mrs. Bonnie Whitney (See Additional Attached Information)**

November 3rd, 2000 the staff selected a curriculum format, which will be user-friendly and meet the needs of Unalaska City School District. State Standards and Performance Standards coding will be added to the Reading, Writing, and Math Curriculum that will provide correlation to the HSGQE and Benchmarks. Alaska Department of Education and Early Development has contracted with CTB McGraw-Hill to develop practice tests for the HSGQE and Benchmark Examinations for Grades 3, 6, and 8. The practice tests for the HSGQE should arrive by December 18, 2000. These tests will be released to the school districts before they are released to the general public. The practice test will be utilized as a diagnostic tool to assist in guiding the instructional program for the individual students. January 22, 2001, the practice test will be posted on the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development for general use. Practice tests for the Benchmark Exams for grades 3, 6, and 8 are expected to be available mid-January 2001. These will be posted on the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development's website as soon as the department receives them.

<http://www.eed.state.ak.us/>

Last week, UCSD received updated Benchmark information including corrected Socioeconomic Status (SES) and Limited English Proficient (LEP) data. Alaska Department of Education & Early Development also provided "Spring 2000 Statewide Benchmark Results," which provides average Alaska Performance Indices by standard area. Using the benchmark result information provided by the State of Alaska, a table was created to show "Spring 2000 Unalaska Benchmark Results." Comparing the State Results and Unalaska Results, Unalaska students performed better on 24 of the 36 percentage scores. Many of our percentages were considerable better than the State percentages. We are continually striving to meet the instructional needs of individual students, which will result in higher District scores.

Mr. Sanborn went on to discuss the format, including the assessment component of the curriculum with the Board to ascertain if this format matched the wishes of the Board. The consensus of the Board was that this appeared to be the format in mind. Formats for Junior High and High School Course Descriptions were also discussed as examples were shown from individual teachers at UCSD. In his opinion, course descriptions may be doable this year, but the syllabuses may not be expected to be completed this academic year.

1. The Board participated in a discussion led by Student Representative, Trever Shaishnikoff, pertaining to Student Travel Meal Allowances. Mr. Shaishnikoff discussed reasons why students wanted the \$5.00 per day meal allowance

reinstated. Estimated costs would be approximately \$3,500.00 for the remainder of this year. Discussions focused on fundraisers, parent expectations that meals are personal responsibilities, activities vs. student activities and regional and State meets.

1. The Board also heard a report from the superintendent pertaining to the progress of the new elementary school. Progress is being made on many different fronts, most notable in the electrical work being completed. Mr. Sanborn mentioned that he was amazed with how much work the electrical contractor had done in the past ten days. Permanent power is expected either later this week or next week. Boilers should be operating in early January. The construction superintendent, Bill Young, had positive words to say about Kumin's & Associates as to their responsiveness to concerns. Mr. Sanborn also shared that there had been some talk about the project being accelerated to accommodate the opening to coincide with the beginning of the academic year. Darrell went on to say that funds needed to accelerate the project would be better spent in the FF&E process or operating funds. He discussed that the move during the year may cause some inconveniences and stress, but felt that parents, businesses, and community all would come together in masses to assist in this move if asked to do so. The Board concurred.
2. Board members discussed their recent Alaska Association of School Board meeting that was held earlier this month. Discussions focused on a variety of workshops, funding, testing, and the like.

The Future Agenda Items Include:

1. AASG Conference Report
2. UCSD Substance Abuse Policy for Unalaska High School Sports
3. Graduation Math Requirements

The Meeting Adjourned at 9:25 pm.

1. **Dates to remember-**
2. **December 16th, Board Evaluation and Goal Setting Session**
3. **December 21st Regular Unalaska City School District Board of Education Meeting**