

# **Superintendent's Report**

**To:** Unalaska City School District Board of Education

**From:** Darrell J. Sanborn, Superintendent

**Date:** August 16, 2001

It always surprises me that summers seem to go by so quickly as the years go by. I have talked with a number of students who are really excited school will be starting soon. I always have taken this time of the year to re-focus on our strengths and on areas that may need attention. Our time of reflection has made me think of why we had a really good year last year. We remained focused on the needs of kids, and we focused on educational issues with long-term objectives in mind. We communicated openly and listened to others very carefully. We worked as a team. This "team" has plenty of members, which includes students, parents, faculty & staff, and community members of a wide variety of concerns. We all worked as a unit and created a sense of unity for our district. I feel unity is a big part of why we were successful this past year. We worked as a community to face the different and sometimes difficult issues. Just as last year, there will be difficult issues ahead of us this year. These difficulties may include dealing with issues for the new school such as transportation, schedules, impact on different programs, and the revamping of the existing building. The updating of our Board Policy Manual may bring some good discussions forward as well. If we remember why and what we have done this past year, and build upon our trust and open communications, we will have another successful year. And let us not ever forget to celebrate the successes of our students and their work.

The start of a school year is always so very positive for me. I have been impressed with the students' behavior as I have seen how our students are so respectful of other students, of adults, and especially themselves. I have enjoyed watching our students welcome and make our new students feel at home. For some students new to our District, it is a challenge to step up to our higher academic and behavioral standards. I really enjoy seeing the change this brings to these students as they all have the opportunity to flourish.

I am pleased not many folks are asking about the enrollment numbers as there is not the concern that was with us last year. The only numbers that we have to compare apples to apples is the ones that come on the first day of school. As in the past, we will see a bump after Labor Day and the numbers continue to grow during the month of September. I have no reason but to believe that we will be at 355 as projected by

the Budget Committee last spring. I should also state that I am happy to be hearing that we will see a number of the home-schooled children attending school this fall. The successes of this past year have shown that we do have a very quality program here.

The vast majority of our faculty have returned with smiles on their faces and eager to get back to work. We were fortunate this year with an extremely low turnover in our staff, as many districts are starting their school year with a number of openings. As you know, we have four new teachers and one new administrator to the District.

The new school is moving along nicely and all appears to be ready for completion by November 15<sup>th</sup>. I have started to receive quotes for the different equipment and materials we will need. The trick is to order the materials to arrive as close to November 15<sup>th</sup> as possible as to not to create a storage problem for us. As many folks know, the City Council has put forth a budget amendment to assist in the costs of the FF&E&FT (Furniture, Fixtures, & Equipment, & Finishing Touches!) This will allow us to open the school with the necessary educational materials for our teachers. I can't say strongly enough how much I appreciate the support of the City Council and the Community as a whole with this entire project!

This week, we have completed the vast majority of our computer upgrades in this building with the final touches coming when we bring the new school on board. I was impressed with the amount and quality of work completed by Roberta Larsen and Tom & Ken from CompuCom. I think that Roberta may be able to take some time to catch her breath in a month!☺ We are also going through our annual audit conducted by Altman, Rogers, & Company. A preliminary report will be given later during our financial report. A busy past couple of weeks in the District Office!!

My thanks also to Jim & Judy for their fine work over the summer. Besides the normal vacation times and other normal leave periods, we were a couple of folks short in our maintenance and custodial areas due to medical leave and airline troubles for a month. The folks have really gotten the work done, and we will see nothing but the high standards we have come to expect. I appreciate how the facility looks for our students.

I look forward to another great year, as I am sure that all do!

Thanks much