

SCHOOL BOARD HAPPENINGS

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

DATE: January 19, 2001

Darrell J. Sanborn

SUBJECT: January School Board Happenings

The Board of Education of the Unalaska City School District met in the school library in Unalaska on Thursday, January 18, 2001. Board President, Joanna Aldridge called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Guests were introduced.

RECOGNIZED:

UNALASKA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT STAFF FOR SUCCESSFUL FOOD SERVICE AUDIT:

- **Elina Kurys**
- **Linda Lekanoff**
- **Margaret Lekanoff**

Superintendent Sanborn presented the awards to Elina Kurys, Linda Lekanoff, and Margaret Lekanoff. He thanked them for their good job with the recent food service audit. On behalf of the board, Mrs. Aldridge thanked them for the great job.

The Board took the following actions:

- Approved the December 21st minutes as presented.
- Approved the December financials.

The Board Heard the Following Reports:

- [Superintendent's Report](#)
- [Principal's Report](#)
- [Student Representative's Report](#)

Concerning the curriculums for reading, writing, and math, Mr. Sanborn thanked Jerah Chadwick, Shawn Dickson, Rhonda Frojen, Roberta Larsen, Lisa McConnell, Cindy Overton, Sandra Sandness, and the Unalaska City School District faculty for their assistance in reviewing the different documents. The board felt that the community meetings were appropriate, and directed the administration to conduct public meetings in an effort to allow for additional comment from parents and the general public. These meetings will be scheduled over the next few weeks and will be held at the

School Library.

Chairperson Mrs. Aldridge asked Superintendent Sanborn what his thoughts were concerning the preschool for next year as mentioned in his Superintendent's report. Mr. Sanborn stated that at the present time, the preschool is funded separately by the City and tuition is paid by parents. He stated that with AS 14.03.080, Boards can determine at what age students may attend school. Districts across the State handle this differently where Kindergarten is a two-year program, four hours per day, five days per week, not serving three year olds or where both three and four year olds attend school two and a half to three hours per day, five days per week but the district only counts these students at .5. Many other issues may come into concern. Do we provide transportation, staffing pattern changes, and many other issues. Mr. Sanborn stated that this is really still in the "thinking about it" stage, and felt as though the budget committee needed to address it first, then looking at the programmatic issues with faculty and parents. He commented that in times of tight dollars, we needed to maximize our resources to ensure that we are receiving every dollar possible from the State, to utilize these dollars and the dollars that we receive from the City to the fullest benefit of our students.

Correspondence Included:

- A letter from Lisa McConnell, thanking the District for its efforts in the curriculum design.
- A letter from Jacqueline Romeyn wishing to rescind the suggestion to investigate the building be used as a junior high school.
- A congratulatory note from Terri Kennedy, Alaska Public Entity Insurance, pertaining to Unalaska City School District's recent award from Offspring Magazine as one of the [Top 100 Districts in the Nation](#).
- A letter from DOE pertaining to the successful Food Service Audit with commendations to Linda Lekanoff, Margaret Lekanoff, and Elina Kurys for their excellent work..
- A "thank you" from former Mayor Kelty for the Board's comments, award and artwork presented to him at his last official City Council meeting.

The Board heard public comment from Mrs. Sue Carlile (our pre-school teacher).

Mrs. Carlile – Profile of K & 1st grade students – 96% attended preschool. She thanked Darrell for his effort of communications, with preschool being taken under the school umbrella. And she also thanked Darrell for wanting to do what's best for the kids.

The Board discussed the following:

- Academic Calendar Update Darrell summarized what's happened up to this point. He recommended "late start" and suggested setting a worksession if the

board feels that is needed. The board agreed by consensus to have the work session and only two topics to discuss (Calendar and The Programmatic Issues of the New School), on March 1st, 2001, at 7:00 p.m. in the school library.

- Math Requirements - The board directed the administration to recommend changes in the present Board Policy on graduation requirements increasing the number of math requirements from two credits to three credits for first reading at the February 15th Board meeting. Darrell was also instructed to invite Jerah Chadwick from the University to discuss dual credit issues pertaining to math classes offered at UAF, which would be accepted for high school math credit. The board was also hoping that Jerah could discuss the ASSET test, which is a test used for placement decisions for Math and English college classes.
- AASB Legislative Fly-In The board mentioned that we really need somebody to represent our district. Mr. Sanborn asked to let us know what Fly-Ins' they would like to attend. The Board will get back to the District office this week.

The Board determined that it is too soon to get an understanding of where different bills would lead.

Mr. Sanborn encouraged the Board to remain very active and play a leadership role in the legislative process as Unalaska City School District is respected due to how well our students did on the Benchmark and Exit Exams. Many legislators may find it very easy to dismiss other districts remarks, they must respect ours due to our successes here. The two legislative fly ins are set for February 24-27 and April 22-24 in Juneau.

- Budget Committee Issues/March Meeting Dates -The board added an additional school board meeting in March, to be held on Thursday March 29, to finalize the school budget. The regularly scheduled meeting on March 16 will not change.

The Future Agenda Items Include:

- First Reading on Board Policy (Math Requirements)
- Legislative Issues

The Announcements Include:

- Bonnie Whitney has been chosen to serve on Exit Exam Review Committee in February, March, and April, and this will be paid for by the State.
- Rummage Sale on Saturday, January 20, 2001, PCR
- Public Forum for Recycling on Friday, Old PCR Building, and Open House on Saturday-OC Warehouse
- January 20th, Saturday - Aleutian Arts Council (Enjoy the night of great blues music) Makushin Room, Grand Aleutian
- January 27th, from 10:am - Noon Teleconference (High School Competency

Test) with Rep. Con Bunde - School Library

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.