

# Superintendent's Report

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

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

**Date:** July 26, 2001

As I am sure you all know, this summer has just sped by way too quickly. One only needs to realize faculty are due back in four weeks and students start school in five weeks. I have been very impressed with the amount of cleaning and repairing that has gotten completed over the summer, but we still have lots to do.

I also wanted to make a brief report on summer school. I appreciate the Board's support on running a later and longer summer school program for this year. I had many parents who were surprised it was offered at no cost. I also appreciate the students and parents sticking with it, as I know many parents were shuffling their students by making two to three trips per day. I know this was a task for many of them. Summer school may have been difficult for parents not only because of the logistics, but also because students may have been reluctant to attend regularly. However, with the coming of the Benchmark and Exit examinations, students and parents should take every remediation opportunity. Letters and phone calls were made to every parent who had children needing assistance using either the Benchmark/Exit exams or the CAT-V Standardized tests. As I had mentioned, I was somewhat disappointed in the lower numbers of upper elementary students who attended, as I was hoping a combination of summer school, smaller class size and a more focused effort on the basics would have moved many students along. We need to start as early as possible in our remediation efforts, if we are to have an impact on student progress in meeting these benchmarks. In saying this, I need to also mention we had a number of students who made great progress in their reading levels in all age groups, along with a number of students who had perfect or close to perfect attendance. Great Job all!!!

This next week we will have faculty from surrounding school districts attending a Career Pathways workshop in order to incorporate aspects of the fisheries into our language arts and math curriculums. This program is funded by a State grant, and I really appreciate so many of the community members who are providing their expertise to this group. Unalaska City School District folks will also be working our science and social studies curriculums.

One of our goals is to update our Board Policy Manual, and I am hoping we can start this process at our next Board meeting. Much of what I will recommend for changes will deal with different or more politically correct verbiage, yet some will deal with various laws that have been passed over the past few years. However, some of this should and will include input from the various stakeholders and will take more time to develop. I appreciate your help on this project as I am hoping that as we complete each particular section, we will also be able to put this on our website. This is a large task, yet it will allow us to have our policies updated with a very complete and precise starting point.

Some dates to remember include August 20<sup>th</sup> with the faculty returning for in-service & workdays, including the BBQ set for August 22<sup>nd</sup> to be held behind this building on the outside basketball court. The first day of school for students is August 27<sup>th</sup> and our next Board meeting is scheduled for August 16<sup>th</sup>. I would encourage all parents with students new to the District to stop in sooner, rather than later, to complete the registration process. Please be aware of the new immunizations that are required.

Thanks much!!