

# Unalaska City School District SCHOOL BOARD HAPPENINGS

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**  
Darrell J. Sanborn

**DATE:** March 19, 2001

**SUBJECT: March School Board Happenings**

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The Board of Education of the Unalaska City School District met in the school library in Unalaska on Thursday, March 15, 2001. Board President, Joanna Aldridge called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Guests were introduced.

**RECOGNIZED:**

**Superintendent Sanborn thanked and presented awards to the following folks:**

**For donating to the Benchmark & CAT 5 Testing:**

- ❖ Alyeska Seafoods
- ❖ Mrs. Shannon Thompson

**For participating in Strategic Planning Committee:**

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|--------------------|--------------------|
| ❖ Sandra Sandness  | ❖ Darlene Jeppesen |
| ❖ Cindy Overton    | ❖ Holly Holman     |
| ❖ Maria Nguyen     | ❖ Jon Fager        |
| ❖ Shannon Morrison | ❖ Joe Draper       |
| ❖ Roberta Larsen   | ❖ John Conwell     |
| ❖ Elina Kurys      |                    |

**For their generous donations to the Alternative School Class Valentine Dinner:**

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|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ❖ Edelmira Cortez            | ❖ Mountain View Coffee         |
| ❖ Eagle Store                | ❖ Parks, Culture, & Recreation |
| ❖ Grand Aleutian (Gift Shop) | ❖ Peterkin Distributors        |
| ❖ Grand Aleutian (Hotel)     | ❖ Virginia Sobrepena           |
| ❖ Marita Kirchhofer          | ❖ Trident Seafoods             |
| ❖ Linda Lekanoff             | ❖ Susan Voss                   |

## **The Board took the following actions:**

- ❖ Approved the February 15<sup>th</sup> minutes.
- ❖ Approved both January '01 & February '01 financials.
- ❖ Approved the Resolution 01-01 support for AASB - Quality Schools funding.
- ❖ Approved and signed certificated staff contracts for FY 02.
- ❖ Approved BP 6146.1 – Graduation Requirements - Second Reading.
- ❖ Approved BP 2100 & BP 2110 Organizational Chart- First Reading

## **The Board Heard the Following Reports:**

- ❖ **Superintendent's Report (Please see attached)**
- ❖ **Principal's Report (Please see attached)**
- ❖ **Student Representative Report (None, Trever Shaishnikoff is at Regional BB)**

## **Correspondence Included:**

- ❖ A letter from Mr. Carl Rose, Alaska Association of School Boards concerning NWREL Board of Director's opening.
- ❖ A letter of invitation from ASTE, 20<sup>th</sup> Alaska Society for Technology in Education 2001 educational technology conference in Anchorage.

## **The Board discussed the following:**

- ❖ **Northwest Accreditation Peer Review Preliminary Report** – The Accreditation Response Team reported that Unalaska City School District had its last Accreditation visit ten years ago. The Accreditation process has changed a great deal over the past years. It had been much more of a “quantitative look” but now is more like a “qualitative look”. Mr. Carlson, past State Chair of Northwest Accreditation, discussed the mutual respect between the staff and students, and praised the Board for its guidance of the District over the years. Ms. Averwater spoke of her interviews with students and staff. She said the students talked a great deal about the respect and high standards that are set and maintained. Many comments were heard about the educational support, and involvement of the Board, parents, businesses, and the community as a whole. Dr. Rowe reiterated that this community values education, the quality of education is quite high, and encouraged the Board and the community not to take it for granted. The Team strongly recommended an ESL, (English as a Second Language) position. This school has a significant and growing number of ESL students. The absence of a licensed librarian was also a concern. The Team congratulated and thanked the school board members for their great job. The final report and decision can be expected in the near future.
- ❖ **Preschool Program Report** – The Superintendent presented his report and recommendations to the Board. (attached) The recommendation is that we start the discussion process at the beginning of the next academic year. Board Policies and some issues need to be addressed so the Preschool Program meets the criteria for

foundation formula funding, extending services to five days a week, and at no charge to parents. The Board came to a consensus to revisit this issue in August.

❖ Operating Budget – On behalf of the Budget Committee Members, Mrs. Holman presented the FY 02 Budget. The increases in expenditures from FY 01 were for the following:

\$61,067 Addition of an English as a Second Language Teacher for the K-12 program, which includes benefits

\$91,999 step increases for existing employees:

\$57,932 increase in benefits for existing employees, primarily health insurance:

New School Expenditures:

\$35,000 utilities

\$10,000 property insurance

\$21,130 custodian,

\$17,610 office clerk

\$16,765 library aide.

There were no increases budgeted in supplies, equipment, or travel. Since the maximum allowable the city can contribute to the school district went up less than ½ of one percent (\$4,300) this year, but the expenditures increased by 7.5%, the committee recommended that the City fund 35% of the school's maintenance budget, which equates to \$260,000, outside the General Fund, which is allowable by the State, to balance the budget. The Board discussed adding the two teachers listed on the Budget Committee's wish list, and also adding a school nurse, which is not budgeted for next year. The Board asked that the superintendent provide the Board with the current class sizes and projections for class sizes for next year. Regarding the Capital Requests and the F, F & E, (furniture, fixtures, & equipment) for the new school, the superintendent had suggested to the Board that we use our fund balance for the purchases instead of asking the City for an appropriation for all of these items. At the present time, the District has \$374,335 in unreserved fund balance, but it is expected that \$100,000 of this will be used by June 30, 2001 for health insurance premium increases that occurred during the second half of this fiscal year and curriculum materials. It was recommended by the Superintendent that the remainder of the fund balance be used for equipment, except for \$100,000, which should be saved for emergencies. Mrs. Aldridge & Mr. Kniazowski of the Board, as well as Frank Kelty & Gene Makarin, and others in the audience voiced a concern with only having a fund balance of only \$100,000. Mrs. Pound pointed out that if there was an unexpected increase in health insurance, or if a special education aide was needed for a child that enrolled mid-year, there would be no way the City could help with these expenditures because they are already funding the District at the maximum allowable. The City could fund a piece of equipment, such as a boiler, separately, but an operating expenditure such as health insurance could not. Mrs. Lekanoff & Mr. Morrison also agreed that \$100,000 was too low of a figure. Mr. Morrison discussed the need for a nurse in the school and how difficult it was to not budget for it this year. Paul Larsen asked why it was left out and discussed different possibilities of how this position may be funded.

**A copy of the proposed Budget is available upon request at the District office.**

The Board agreed by consensus to have the Calendar, Education Foundation/Endowment report, AASB Legislative Fly-In, CEAAC postponed and rescheduled for a future meeting. The next Board meeting is scheduled for March 29<sup>th</sup> and will be held in the School Library.

**The announcements included:**

- ❖ Mrs. Aldridge will be in Anchorage for March 29<sup>th</sup> meeting, and would like to Participate via teleconference.
- ❖ Mrs. Lekanoff plans to be away from Unalaska and will miss the May Board Meeting.
- ❖ Mr. Kniazowski spoke of the ramifications of SB 133, which allows a 2-year transition for implementation of the public high school competency examination.

**The meeting adjourned at 10:26pm.**