

# Superintendent's Report

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

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

**Date:** May 17, 2001

Greetings all!!

It is getting to be that busy time of the year where we are doing a great deal of celebration for student success. It is so great to see our students being successful in their own ways and it is so nice seeing so many parents and community members participating in these celebrations with the students. I find a great deal of pleasure in watching these things happen. We have life good here on the Island!!

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Session is finally over. There are some that say that this was a great year for education as so much time was focused on the subject, and there was an increase in both the Foundation Formula and the Quality Schools Learning Opportunity Grants. This increase for Unalaska City School District equates to \$31K from the Foundation Formula and an additional \$11K from the Quality Schools Learning Opportunity Grants. Don't get me wrong, I do appreciate that there is additional funding for education and Unalaska City School District, but in saying that, this was such an extreme year in terms the different attitudes of the Legislature. On one hand we were praised due to the success of our students, but yet on the other, we had the Senate looking at us as a district that should not receive much State funding. Like so many times, it is not only what one gets, but also what one stops. It is frustrating. I very much appreciate our effective legislator, Carl Moses. Even though I am complaining about this, I would like to give thanks to the community of Unalaska. This is my first year, first year where I have not had to "battle" on both fronts over budget issues. My hats off to the Budget Committee, City Council and others that were so supportive throughout the Budget Process. I am happy to say that the "enemy are not us!!"

The same day that we heard the "good" news from the State, we also were informed of a \$97K increase for our health insurance for FY 02, and this is on top of the \$68K increase we already paid this fiscal year. Again, I am happy that the Board and others disagreed with me concerning our Fund Balance, as this will be needed to cover some of these unexpected expenses.

I appreciate Link's handling of our brief bus shortage for one afternoon last week. As I said last spring, I am very happy that we have the bus services contracted out. It can be expensive for a district to operate, and the amount of regulations the buses are subject to are unbelievable. I am glad that Link's folks were able to rectify the

situation so very quickly without any additional inconvenience to folks. Thanks much!!

Tonight we will ask you to approve the curriculums for Reading, Writing & Math. Again, my sincere appreciation goes to the Faculty, Staff, and the Curriculum & Strategic/Accreditation Committees for all of their hard work in this task. Our goal was to complete this curriculum task and have it to you by our May Board Meeting. I am so happy to say that we were successful. The concern we had in developing this document was that we needed to capture what we have been doing right. We are in a much different boat than many other districts. There is not a need for change. Our students are doing very well. This is the product of all of the work that has been completed, and we should all be proud of it. I also am very appreciative of Mrs. Whitney. She is not only very talented, but also one heck of a taskmaster! Along with this work, we have also come up with a list of resources and teaching tools that come with this curriculum. These resources are also important for our students to continue to be successful.

Summer is quickly coming and I am sure that many folks have plans. We are in the process of contacting parents about summer school. I do hope parents will make this a priority even if vacations are planned. We will be running five weeks of summer school, five days a week, and for the most part, half days. This will be starting June 18<sup>th</sup>. We will be running classes in reading; writing & math, and the length of the day will be determined by the need. Our goal is that ALL students meet the standards, not just some of them. I encourage all parents to give this consideration, as there are many options for us.

Summer is also a time for employment opportunities for our students. This too, is a learning opportunity, as students learn employability skills. Our students are bright and responsible, but need these employment opportunities to continue to grow, and I am sure that they will make good employees. In saying this, I do hope that employers remind them that school is not the real world. In school, they may receive Saturday School for excessive tardy's or absences. My hope is that the "real world" doesn't quite work that way and Saturday School is not an option for being late three times in one week!!

A quick reminder that they are still accepting donations for the Halibut Derby!! Please remember that this provides a number of scholarships for our students! If you would like to buy tickets or make a cash donation, please contact Dick Davis, Sheryl Johnson, or Mya Renkin.

Thanks