

# Unalaska City School District Superintendent's Report

**To:** Unalaska City School District Board of Education  
**From:** Darrell J. Sanbom, Superintendent  
**Date:** October 18, 2001

We have been in session for almost two months now with the end of the quarter coming next week. Time is flying by!! Our fall student activities are starting to wind down and new activities are starting up. I am so very pleased to see we have so many parents coming to see their children in school on a regular basis. A parent actively involved in their child's education is a great advantage to a child's success in school.

Earlier this month we had a number of students take the exit examination. For the most part, these were juniors and seniors who had not passed the reading, writing or math portions of the test. The results of these tests should be available in December. There are new regulations working their way through the State systems, which will have more impact on this process.

I want to take this opportunity to thank so many folks, and also the private & public entities for their willingness to assist us in offering to sub this week. We are still in need of more substitute teachers, so if anyone has time on their hands and wants to work a bit for holiday expenses, we would really like to hear from them. It appears we have more than our share of our employees who need to take leave for medical reasons. The vast majority of folks have had to extend their leave, and I am so very thankful for those folks who have made things happen over the past couple of months. There have been many times, at the end of the day, I think about the little duck swimming over calm water. On the surface everything looks smooth, yet, under the water line, the duck is paddling like crazy. Folks have been understanding and have helped things run smoothly by covering classes, being flexible with schedules, and doing what needed to be done. Our maintenance and custodial staff, our faculty, our instructional aides and administrative staff, are all to be commended for making things happen. I also want to thank our students as they continue to be great students, and productive and good citizens of our little society here at school. I really appreciate them.

It appears our enrollment numbers are holding at about 368.5. Our count period ends on October 26<sup>th</sup>, and I don't expect any big swings between now and then. Our budget for FY 02 was built on 355 students.

The work on the new school is quickly finishing up. The vast majority of materials and such have been ordered with the idea that all stuffs will be here by December 1<sup>st</sup>. I think we have worked out most issues for the move and different programs. Times and busing will mostly likely need to be adjusted to make things work, but it appears we are talking about less than fifteen minutes, one way or the other. The major goal is to make efficient use of any educational time.

I wanted also to remind folks in the community to get involved with the different work that will be going on throughout this academic year. We are moving forward with our curriculum work in Science, Social Studies, Aleut Culture & Language, and a bit on Guidance & Counseling. We will be utilizing available funds from our Career Pathways grant to also work on the Vocational Education Curriculum. This grant expires at the end of this calendar year. I would hope that if anyone were interested in any of these curriculum areas to please contact the school.

Lastly, I wanted to thank our Board of Education, and this community. Since the last Board meeting, I have had many folks stop and congratulate me on my contract extension. I am still having fun, and very much enjoy my work in this community. I feel very good about the "match" we talked about during the search period. I guess I did not expect things to go as smoothly as they have over the past year and a half, as this is very rare for any superintendence. I appreciate the parental and community comments, concerns, and integrity; and I very much appreciate the same of this Board. You did what you said you would do when I was hired. You put the kids first, and I can tell you this does not always happen. You have worked well as a unit and continue to do so. I thank you for that. I really appreciate each of you as individuals and collectively as a group.