

Superintendent's Report

To: Unalaska City School District Board of Education
From: Darrell J. Sanborn, Superintendent
Date: April 25, 2002

We continue to be impressed with the amount of the Community Support that we receive in so many different venues. Just this week, the City Council continued with their long history of financial support for the District. With their pledge to work with us to find a suitable avenue that meets our needs, I feel very appreciative. These are very tough decisions for the City Council, as the City's abilities to continue to meet all needs will continue to be a problem, as tough choices will need to be made. We can hope that we will see some relief in our expenditures in our health insurance costs for this next fiscal year. We just received word that in FY 04 our TRS match will increase to 12%, a point where it was at a couple of years back. Although this is only a one percent increase, it does mean an additional \$20K will be expected in benefit expenditures. We can only hope that maybe this year, some positive legislation will go through to assist us in our efforts. According to our projections and with language at this time, the passage of both SB1 and HB 312 may mean approximately \$90K in State funding for our District. This is an election year and sometimes strange things happen. We may even see a fiscal plan that is not solely based on sales tax in the remaining days of this Session?

We still have six plus weeks of school yet, and lots of teaching and learning to be done. There will also be celebrations and a number of positive activities happening over the next few weeks. I hope that as many folks as possible are able to attend these various activities, as there are no better students in Alaska than those here at Unalaska City School District.

The scores for our TerraNova/CAT-VI, (grades 2,4,5,7,9) our State mandated norm-referenced test, and the Benchmarks, (grades 3,6,8) the criterion-referenced test based on State Standards were scheduled to arrive last week. I would encourage parents to pay very close attention to the results of these tests given the era of High Stakes Testing. We are beginning the process of inviting students to summer school and I would encourage parents to strongly consider the recommendation of their child's teacher when it comes to summer school. Even if the child may not be able to participate in the entire session, a few days or a few weeks is much better than nothing. We are hoping to begin on June 17th. Please give me a call if you have any questions about summer school.

Thanks much and I would be most happy to answer any questions!