

Superintendent's Report

To: Unalaska City School District Board of Education
From: Darrell J. Sanborn, Superintendent
Date: May 23, 2002

The academic year is quickly coming to an end and many are making their summer plans. This evening we will be updating the Board on the FY 03 Budget. In the past, I have been a bit reluctant to count on Juneau to assist us in making ends meet. Our request of the City Council to reduce utility rates and upfront funding came to a total of \$95,850. The unanticipated funding from the State totals \$96,020!!! I should also state that none of these funds would remain in the Foundation Formula beyond this year, so these tough decisions will face us again next year. We also need to remember that the State is completing an area cost differential study. I do not believe that this study will be beneficial to Unalaska City School District. We also received word that our employee health insurance will not go up as much as anticipated, but the rates will go up again. We should hear more in October. I would like to remind folks that over the past two fiscal years, we have had to find an additional \$160K+ to cover health insurance costs. We have also been notified that the Rural School Achievement Program was Federally funded this fiscal year at \$30,749 and this program also allows us flexibility to decide where we utilize the different funds. I will make the recommendation that the Board approve these funds for the Nurse for the upcoming year. We should also remember that Iliuliuk Clinic has the school nurse position in their Federal 330 CHC program grant. In the event that they are successful, we have the ability to transfer these funds to another area within the "No Child Left Behind" program.

We should also remember that we still have life good on this Island. Although we had a difficult time with the budget process and making ends meet, I feel that we are still blessed. In some ways we are no different than other school districts across the State. Most are having to make the tough decisions. However in Unalaska we are so fortunate to have the support of the community, parents and the business community. Education is a priority in our community. I also appreciate very much the continued support of the City Council. I also appreciate our students and their focus on their education and commitment to high standards. The students really make it easy and fun for so many of us. I also appreciate Carl Moses' hard work for us at Juneau this past year.

I would also like to report to the Board that at the present time, we are fully staffed for all certificated staff positions for FY 03. I am hoping that we will have no surprises over the next few months. We may need to hire an additional summer school

teacher, as our numbers are looking strong for summer school. The High Intensity Summer Reading Grant will cover the bulk of the summer school expenses. We are pleased with the response we have seen from students signing up for summer school. Summer school is an opportunity for remediation and credit recovery, and we encourage parents to enroll their children, even if they will not be here for the entire session.

Many of our students will be looking for employment this summer around the Island. I do hope that folks consider hiring our students. From what I have seen of students at their various job sites, they are good employees, and are successful in the world of work. I would ask that employers keep their standards high and remember that if our students are late three times in any given week, they attend Saturday School. I doubt that this is the way the “real world” works!! ☺ Train them well as employability skills are as important as other skills.

I also want to thank the Board. I have seen where many Boards get totally emerged in budgets and other distractions. This Board has kept the focus on the big picture, the education of our students. I really applaud the work that you do and the manner in which you do it.

Also this is the time of the year the Unalaska World Record Halibut Derby Committee along with the Unalaska/Port of Dutch Harbor Convention & Visitors' Bureau are raising funds to cover the costs of the 7th Annual Unalaska World Record Halibut Derby. These folks raise funds to cover the costs of the prize money and the insurance policy that allows them to offer the \$100,000.00 grand prize. After these funds are raised, the proceeds raised through ticket sales for scholarships and other educational opportunities for our students. Please see Sheryl Johnson at the Grand or Mya Renken at the Visitors' Bureau, or any of their board members