

# **Superintendent's Report**

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

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

**Date:** October 17, 2002

I am pleased to see our students and staff getting into the routine that makes education so fun and effective. I continue to be pleased with not only how seriously students and parents make education a priority but also the quality of work that our students put out. I am so pleased with the high standards our staff, the parents and the community of Unalaska have for our educational program. I am most pleased with the high expectations our students have for themselves. Some folks call this self-respect. I hope that everyone has heard about how well our Class of 2004 did on the Exit Exam.

I am also pleased to report that enrollment is holding through this count period. I will be able to report the final numbers at our meeting next month. I believe this will be another good year for Unalaska City School District. It is my hope that we can complete our Board Policy updates, the Fine Arts and the Health & Physical Education, Aleut Language and Culture Curricula; make progress on our Strategic Plan, review and update our report cards, renovations to this building and lots of other stuffs that we are capable of doing. I do hope anyone with an interest in these areas will please step forward and share their views. Like my Grandfather used to say, we need to "make hay while the sun is shining!"

We will have another good year. Financially we will do better than expected with the increase in enrollment. So many folks have worked long and hard to make this happen. However, this long and hard work is not over yet. I am very concerned about future budgetary issues. Last month I reported what the impact of SB 2006, sec. 82 might have had on the District. This evening we will talk about the FY 04 funding cap. I am concerned that in December or January we will be talking about the area cost differential study that DOE is working on now. There is talk about having a "kinder and gentler" legislative session. I doubt that I need to remind folks we were fortunate last year that the legislators provided us with \$96K in one time funds we were able to use to make our budget reach, with something like \$759.00 to spare.

There are times when I think we have some of the same issues other districts across the State have, but not often. We have life good on this Island. I don't have to look far to see how well our students are doing. This is the direct result of the support we receive from our parents, the hard work of our teachers and staff and the many other assets we have in this community. In districts far, far away, I have seen where folks are not problem solvers like us. In fact there are places where they "circle the wagons and shoot inward" rather than work together. We do have life good on this Island!!!

I hope that folks are really taking advantage of seeing our students perform in their different activities. I am so impressed with how our students step up to the plate, as they grow older. This class continues to exceed my expectations in the areas of academics, leadership abilities, and courtesy. Our students, with all of our diversity, are the greatest in the State. I enjoy hearing teachers new to the District talk about the difference between our schools and the schools from which they came. Our students make it so pleasurable to come to work. I am not sure the students realize how special they really are. Please do take every opportunity to watch our students whether it is an athletic event, a music performance or other academic activities. I hope you are as proud as I am; I think you will be.

Finally, a concern I have heard a number of times deals with our students walking to school with the lack of daylight in the morning. I would encourage parents to instruct their children to use the sidewalks, and crosswalks, to wear reflective clothing, and to review general safety issues they need to be aware of when walking. With Eagle's View opening, we are seeing different traffic patterns and we all need to be a bit more cautious with our walking and driving activities.

Thanks much!!