

Superintendent's Report

To: Unalaska City School District Board of Education

From: Darrell J. Sanborn, Superintendent

Date: September 19, 2002

School is off and running, students are quickly getting into a routine, and our enrollment appears to be holding. I am real pleased to see what I have seen in the students stepping up to the plate and working hard on their academics. I am also pleased to see the numbers of students taking advantage of the study hall offered after school four days per week. We have fantastic students here!!!!

I look forward to working with a variety of stakeholders as we begin reviewing our student report cards, lesson plan format, and methods of grading such as rubric scoring guides. Through the push for standards – based education and accountability, I suspect a number of issues may be brought up during this process. I am very interested in hearing what parents want to see on their report cards. It is my understanding that it has been a very long time since the report cards have been evaluated.

We have been meeting with the Faculty to discuss which curricula we will tackle next. As you are aware, we have completed and adopted reading, writing, math, social studies, science, and vocational education curricula and instructional materials. It is my hope that we bring the Aleut Language & Culture curriculum to the Board for adoption in the near future. It appears that the consensus is to work on Fine Arts, Health & Physical Education. I also see that we will continue to work on our Guidance & Counseling curriculum. In addition to serving on the Fine Arts, Health & Physical Education curricula development committees, we also will be updating our Technology as this is due to DOE at the end of this academic year, if folks are interested in volunteering.

I also want to take this opportunity to commend the Faculty. I am very pleased to see the way they have followed our new curricula areas developed over the past couple of years. In past experiences, I have not always found this to be the case. This was one of the benefits of having the curriculum coordinator's position over the past couple of years, to assure that all faculty buy-in and follow the new curricula utilizing the adopted instructional materials. We will probably find that our curricula development goes a bit slower this year, but it is important to have this collaborative effort in curricula development. We also have some funds available in the Teacher Recruitment and Retention Grant to assist our new faculty in becoming familiar with our curricula. This primarily will involve the science and social studies areas in the junior high and high school.

I believe that financially we will be fine this year, however I do see some financial concerns in our very near future. With our anticipated increased enrollment, we did expect an increase in the funds allocated to us. We thought SB 2006 section 82, which replaced HB 312, was going to do away with the floor for the year, and give us full dollar amounts on the foundation formula, rather than new students being worth only sixty cents on the dollar. I was shocked to see that this really is not the case and the bill did call for \$9,541 for Unalaska City School District, and that with our anticipated enrollment we will receive no more than that, and over half of our additional students are still worth only sixty percent. This issue continues to be very divisive and I am surprised the State has not corrected this because it would only cost approximately \$8M of a \$615M budget.

Another issue I see affecting us is the area cost differential study, which is due out in December. This is seen as the equalizer for rural and remote districts costs of doing business, compared to areas that may not have the higher costs of transportation, power, etc. of other districts. We will need to be very active again in the legislative session. I hope that I am not the only one who was uncomfortable with the comments made by various legislators directly after the primaries.

I continue to hear about Regional Training Centers, and I see that we may wish to position ourselves to serve this area. There are many pros and cons about this program, but if the concept is moving forward, we might want to start some preliminary planning.

Also earlier this month, we completed our annual fiscal audit. I have every reason to believe that we, as in past years, will come through very clean, and this is due to the competencies of Holly Holman, Tammy Knitter, and Sue Honan. The Board can anticipate a draft of the document at our October meeting and it should be on our November agenda in final form.

We have all heard by now about Carl Moses' health issues this past weekend. I know that we all wish him a speedy recovery.

We will have a "blast fax" out by Monday pertaining to the Dedication of the new school. I hope that everyone will stop by between 3:30 and 6:30 for an informal reception. Weather permitting we will be unveiling the sign at 4 P.M. We decided to change the time to 3:30 in the afternoon as not to conflict with the 3rd Annual Women's Conference sponsored by the Clinic.

And let us not forget to mention Unalaska Pride's Blueberry Bash to be held on Sunday. I should also state that this activity is very, very competitive. I whined enough last year to win Annabelle's award for the biggest whiner and complainer. For this, I received a nice muffin pan, but really can't show it off like I can for my third place trophy!!!