

Superintendent's Report

To: Unalaska City School District Board of Education

From: Darrell J. Sanborn, Superintendent

Date: February 27, 2003

The month of February has gone by very quickly and I didn't have the opportunity to remind folks that February is Board Appreciation Month. This Board and the Boards, which came before, have done an excellent job in shaping Unalaska City School District and deserve their share of the credit for the successes of our students. Life can be so incredibly busy on this Island at certain times of the year!! We, many times, forget to send our appreciation to folks who have stepped up to the plate to serve the community and our children. The spirit of cooperation and a sincere interest in high standards for all of our students has made Unalaska City School District one of the finest in the State. With the Board's permission, I am hoping to extend Board Appreciation Month into the Month of March!!

This next week, we will be conducting testing all students from second grade through grade ten. Given recent State and Federal Legislation, these tests are very important to all students and everyone else. Although our students continue to be successful with the Exit Exam, we need to remember starting with the Class of 2004, all students must pass the Exit Exam in order to receive a high school diploma. Those not passing will receive a certificate of attendance. Tonight we will be discussing the State's Accountability Workbook, which responds to the No Child Left Behind Act. I encourage all folks to become very familiar with NCLB, as it will have a tremendous impact on education all across America. We are fortunate, as we are seen as a successful school district, but there are many unknowns out there, which may have a big impact on our educational program, and it is not going away any time soon. Please encourage your children to do their best and to take the test seriously, as it will have an impact on their future individual educational program.

In the near future, we will be asking for parental and community input on a number of important projects. These projects include: the Aleut Language & Culture Curriculum, the Fine Arts Curriculum, the Health & Physical Education Curriculum, and a revamping of our report cards. I applaud the Faculty who have worked hard on these, with the idea the report cards need to be concise and yet still give parents very accurate information on how their child(ren) are doing according to the standards and are they on track for graduation. I welcome parents and other interested folks to give a shout and I will happily get copies of the various report cards in draft form out to them for review. I am hoping to get these to the Board soon with the idea for action in May.

Usually, if things are going well, as parents, the temptation is to leave things alone, but I would like to encourage parents to look down the road to find new ways to improve on what we do. Serving on a committee, or sharing opinions is a great way to impact the future of not only your child's education, but the children who are coming up after them as well. This is a challenge in such a busy community, but we have already seen the positive results of priorities shifting, and parents investing more time in their children's education. Please consider serving on one of these committees and/or sharing your thoughts on our educational program.

Tonight we will be looking at the work of the Budget Committee and I very much appreciate their work. This budget is built on what we know to be at this time, and there is no consideration taken concerning the area cost differential, borough formation, or faculty negotiations. We will continue to be watchful of activities in Juneau, and pay particular attention to the Governor's Budget, which is due out on March 6th. Again, we may need to remind both sides of the isle of education was very high on the priority list during the recent election.