

Superintendent's Report

To: Unalaska City School District Board of Education

From: Darrell J. Sanborn, Superintendent

Date: May 15, 2003

The end is in sight for this academic year, and there are many celebrations of student achievements happening at this time of the year. I do hope, as many people as possible are able to participate in these activities.

With less than a week left for this Legislative Session, many of the unknown's will be answered next week. I believe we do need to be concerned to the end, concentrating on not only the educational funding but also the impact of a variety of bills on the City of Unalaska. 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 really 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 very much appreciate 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 Representative Moses and his efforts to look after our interests.

Again, I would like to encourage parents to enroll their children in summer school if they have been recommended to attend. We must make use of every opportunity for those needing remediation and playing catch-up is better done early. With the Graduating Class of 2004, next year, all students receiving a high school diploma must pass the Exit Exam. Those who do not will receive a certificate of attendance.

This is the time of year, which many of our students will be looking for employment this summer around the Island. I do hope 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 quarter, 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 would also like to thank the Board for all of your hard work throughout this year. This evening we will be addressing adopting more standards-based curricula, leaving just the Foreign Languages and Guidance & Counseling left to complete. We also continue to update Board Policies. I am hoping next fall we are able to continue with our Strategic Planning Process. We continue to move forward which is the important thing.

The faculty and staff continue with their hard work with the many different activities involving all ages and so many classrooms. I do hope folks are taking in some of these great celebrations.