

Superintendent's Report

To: Unalaska City School District Board of Education

From: Darrell J. Sanborn, Superintendent

Date: November 20, 2003

I am happy to see discussions begin concerning school funding for the next fiscal year. I had been a bit optimistic we might see a modest increase given Anchorage School District's 7% shortfall for FY 05. We are anticipating a 4.9% shortfall for our budget. Although many other small and rural districts have had to make cuts over the past four or five years, including UCSD, Anchorage has not had to feel this type of pain up until this point. The Governor comments pertaining to educational funding had hit the paper this morning, stating the educational budget has increased under his administration. In all reality, the total state classroom appropriations for K-12 has decreased not increased. The Governor appears to be continuing his campaign since moving funds from the Learning Opportunity Grants into the Foundation Formula. This did secure the funding but did not increase the budget for K-12, and if the truth were known, appropriations are less than last year. I am sure educational funding will be discussed a great deal over the next legislative session. In a study noted in the Center on Education Policy, one state calculates it to cost \$444 more per student per year to maintain the present level of proficiency and \$685 per student per year to improve student proficiency. This amount would be either a 10% or 15% increase to the foundation formula. There are many folks who are saying there are many unfunded mandates under NCLB. I am so very thankful for the support we receive locally!!!

Many students have been out ill over the past week or so, and adding these with those who are out for vacation between seasons, it is very noticeable as one goes to the different classrooms. This could be a big concern for schools if this type of illness were to hit during the testing week. The participation rate would not be met under the rules for Adequate Yearly Progress. I am seeing more students returning to school yet a number of them still look a bit "peaked."

I also wanted to ask folks to remember to slow down during the busy traffic times around the schools. Winter brings darkness but it does not slow our students down. This will be even more important once we get snow on our new pavement, as we may be used to driving on gravel in the past. My concern is with so much new pavement, we may have more accidents.

I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. I believe we all have much to be thankful for, as we do continue to have life good on this Island!!