

Superintendent's Report

To: Unalaska City School District Board of Education

From: Darrell J. Sanborn, Superintendent

Date: May 20, 2004

We are close to the end of another school year. I appreciate all of the faculty and staff working hard throughout the year, and I would categorize this as a successful year. Success and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) should be determined by individual parents in regards to their child's progress throughout the school year. I encourage parents to take advantage of the consumable reading, writing and math materials, which have been purchased for summer school for those students being found not proficient in these areas. Again, it is my hope that all students take advantage of every remediation opportunity available. And, please remember, beginning with the Class of 2004, all students must pass the Exit Exam to receive a high school diploma. Those not passing all three portions of the Exit Exam will receive a certificate of achievement. We need everyone's assistance to reach this goal.

The Legislative Session is now over, and educational funding again, was left until the very end. I appreciate the additional funds put into education, yet we will have to do this again next year. The TRS and PERS increases are set for the FY 06 budget at five percent. This will again mean about \$150K to our budget. This year we were fortunate as many of the Urban districts started to feel what we have been going through the past four or five years. Next year is not an election year, so it may be an uphill battle. We are so very fortunate to live in Unalaska, and have such great support from not only the parents and community, but also the City Council. Life is good on this Island!!!

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.

HB 338, which was passed by both Bodies, changes the age limit to start Kindergarten from being five by August 15th to September 1st. I do not see the Governor vetoing this bill. We have made these changes in the Kindergarten Registration Packet and will need to address this in a Board Policy Revision next fall. This also may very well affect our Pre-School dates. I encourage parents of those children affected by this date change to stop by the school if they have any questions or concerns.

This is the time of the year where we have some great celebrations. I do hope parents and community members take time to participate. I also want to thank this Board for all of their hard work over this past year. We still have more to do next year, and it will never end!!!!

I hope all enjoy their summer break and wish all safe travels and activities.