

Superintendent's Report

To: Unalaska City School District Board of Education

From: Darrell J. Sanborn, Superintendent

Date: February 17, 2005

We continue to hope to see the Legislators have an early focus on educational funding to resolve the serious financial issues facing districts across the State. These issues include increased costs in the employee retirement systems, TRS & PERS, and health insurance, and they are the basis of the need for additional educational funding. What many find frustrating is we are not in control of these issues on a local level. However, we should also realize they are a concern for local and state governmental entities. In communities such as ours, these issues have a greater impact given the presence of a true cash economy. Many districts and entities depend solely on State and Federal support. Very few communities have our situation where every State educational dollar is matched by a Local dollar. In short, the same problems facing the District also face our local governmental agencies. We have life good on our Island, and we must always remember the tremendous support we have from our Community. We are happy that we are able to give folks something to be very proud of.

I have been pleased with the efforts of teachers, parents and students in focusing on and taking advantage of remediation efforts. As you are aware, we do run an "after-school study hall" which is well attended, and I also see classroom teachers with standing room only opportunities for before and after school assistance. Many students and teachers are extending the school day by attending remediation services, some by student's choice, and others by parents' direction. I also hear about and see parents working with their children on improving their academic skills, outside of the school day. Again, AYP does not mean much unless your child is making adequate yearly progress and has these skills to work at their grade level. Again, I encourage parents to work with their child's teacher on a regular basis.

This past weekend, we heard much about "anonymous donors" during the Channel 8 Auction. Unalaska City School District has had so many "anonymous donors" over the past years, whose quietly giving through the years has helped so many of our students in various programs. Some do this out of the goodness of their hearts, while others do not want to "ruin their reputation" but really care about the District and our students. This is in addition to the individuals, businesses, parents & others who give their time, efforts, financial & community support and a belief of high expectations on a regular basis. I also want to take this opportunity to thank all that attended and supported the Pre-School Ice Cream Social. This is such a great program and plays a big part in the success of our educational program. Life is good on our Island!!!!