

Superintendent's Report

To: Unalaska City School District Board of Education

From: Darrell J. Sanborn, Superintendent

Date: February 23, 2006

We are in, what I call, our long stretch, and I would encourage folks to visit the classrooms. I have seen lots of great things going on at all levels. It is fun to watch the teachers and students working at full potential!!! There are some really good things happening in the classrooms. I am seeing many students participating in remediation opportunities that we offer. Some are there by their decision; others at the decision of their parents. I am again, reminding parents that the State Standards-Based Assessments will be administered the week following Spring Break. It is very important for students and the District for all to participate in these tests. My hopes are that folks will remember this if they are leaving the Island during this time, they return in time for these tests.

I also want to take this opportunity to announce that, for the first time in Unalaska City School District's history, we have broken the 400 mark for student enrollment for our K-12 population. This happened on February 17th. We broke the 300 mark in 1992.

February is also School Board Appreciation Month as per the Proclamation of the Governor dated December 30th, 2005. Yesterday in the House Finance Subcommittee on DEED, there was much discussion about school board members being compensated, including retirement and insurance. Members of this group wanted to know how much money this was and why this money was not going into the classroom. There are very few school boards that do not provide compensation for members and their time; however, not many folks know that individuals on this Board do not receive compensation. The Board spends a great deal of time with meetings, etc., and especially at this time of the year, which is also the busiest time of the year for our community. This Board along with the past members of this Board should be very proud of their accomplishments. The success of this District is a direct result of the hard work of many in this community throughout the years.

I understand that this is about day 46 of this Legislative Session. I am worried with all of the recent discussions dealing with the Gas Pipeline, educational issues will be put on the back burner and decisions dealing with education will be handled, again, in the last days of the session. One of the biggest things that we have going for us is that Anchorage will be short on their budget by about \$2M. I am constantly reminded about how much local financial support we receive!! Life is good on our Island!!!!