



**BARROW**  
HIGH SCHOOL

— *Striving For Excellence* —

### School Report for the January School Board Meeting

Our current enrollment is 286 with	Freshman at 78
Our enrollment has held	Sophomores at 85
steady this year	Juniors at 73
	Seniors at 50 (We have had two December graduates)

I look forward to the day when my reports to the board are full of student and staff recognitions, accomplishments, and activities. Until then, here are a couple of different or unusual stories:

- From a teacher: “A student that I have had a couple of times over the years and has not passed my class in the past has really stepped it up this semester. She was the first student to submit the first assignment (within the first two days of school), and has logged hours of vocabulary practice for the next assignment. She’s become positive and serious and it is so good to see!”
- From another teacher: “Most “ah ha” moments I’ve had are directed inward... I’ve learned how to structure my assignments more carefully so that students understand exactly what I want without the benefit of classroom interaction... I’ve also realized through Zoom meetings how chaotic the environments some of my students live in. There are siblings running around, interruptions, and overall cramped living conditions. I mean, I knew all of this, but it really drives the point home when you can see it for yourself. I am finding myself much more empathetic with my students.”

I use these two stories to illustrate points about our traditional educational practices and how distance learning is giving us an opportunity to reevaluate what we do and how we do it.

In the first example, “Why is the student now motivated and being successful?” “Why wasn’t she before?” “Had she shut down in the past for some unidentified reason such as difficult peer relationships?” “Once we return, what do we need to do differently to ensure her continued success?” I can’t wait to sit across a table from her and pick her brain. I think we can learn so much from students like this young lady.

In the second example, please look at the process of self-evaluation this professional educator is undergoing. This teacher is becoming more skilled on one hand and more understanding on the other. All as the result of the painful situation we are in. We can’t control the virus but we can at least grow from the situation we are facing.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Jenkins