

Another round fired in legal battle

By Stan Jones

Alaska Legal Services Corporation has fired another round in its/legal battle with the Northwest Arctic School District, and

this time Legal Services is asking the court to order the district to cut off Superintendent George White's paycheck.

Legal Services went to

court in Anchorage last month, charging that the Kotzebue-based school district has repeatedly violated regulations in the Molly Hootch consent de-

cree which mandate community involvement in planning and evaluating new village high schools. Legal Services asked that the district be ordered to comply and to withhold Superintendent White's if it does not comply.

The regulations at issue required four things of a school district:

1. That the chief administrator of the district develop and have approved by the district school board an educational plan for each school established under the consent decree;

2. That he submit to the board at the end of each school year an evaluation of each new school the district operates;

3. That he assure maximum community participation in developing and preparing the plans and evaluations;

4. And, that copies of the plans and evaluations be maintained for public inspection at the school district offices and also be filed with the Commissioner of Education in Juneau.

Legal Services maintains that the district has failed to comply with each of the four requirements of the regulation. Superintendent George White, however, stated that Northwest Arctic was in compliance with the regulation and would be able to demonstrate compliance as required.

In its answer to the Legal Services motion, the district said it will seek to have the regulations in question removed from the consent decree. "NWASD believes that the regulations which are the basis for plaintiffs' claims against NWASD are inappropriately included in the consent decree in this case. NWASD expects to file a motion pursuant to Civil Rule 60 asking the court to modify the consent decree accordingly. If the motion is granted, there will be no basis for proceeding to adjudicate in this action the matters alleged by plaintiffs against NWASD," said the district's response. The district requested 30 days to file its motion to have the Hootch decree modified.