

School committee names MacLean, Jones as Co-chairs

The Joint Committee on School Performance appointed Sen. Lloyd Jones, R-Ketchikan, and Rep. Eileen P. MacLean, D-Barrow, as Co-chairs of this committee during its organizational meeting held Aug. 4.

Other committee members include: Sens. Al Adams, D-Kotzebue, Jack Coghill, R-Nenana, and Reps. Cheri Davis, D-Ketchikan, and Niilo Koponen, D-Fairbanks. Ex officio members are Sen. John Binkley, R-Bethel, and Rep. Johnny Ellis, D-Anchorage.

The joint committee has scheduled a public hearing in Barrow on Sept. 21, from 7 to 10 p.m. at the North Slope Borough Assembly room.

This committee urges the public to share their comments and recommendations on policy issues relating to: Teacher certification, administrative certification, tenure, teacher and administrative evaluation, categorical programs, collective bargaining, and administrative consolidation.

The committee is also interested in receiving input on other topics such as:

- Is there a need for more boarding schools?
- What are the issues that would have to be considered if the state were to require that all schools be accredited?
- Can the Teacher Scholarship Loan Program be modified to increase the number of Native teachers in rural areas?
- Can the energies of social services agencies and schools be linked in new ways that help schools and students in their tasks?

MacLean invites the public to participate in this important hearing.

To make this happen, it is essential for parents, administrators, educators, students, and citizens to be involved in what is happening inside and outside of schools.