

School Board Runs Its Own Show

By MARY JANE FATE

"It's a great responsibility," said Beverly J. Huhndorf, president of the Galena City School Board.

The Galena school actually became independent July 1, 1973, having formerly been under the State-Operated School System.

Beverly has for many years been involved in civic and organizational activities in Fairbanks and Anchorage. She has also worked on jobs which demanded a great deal of responsibility and direction on her part.

Overseeing an operation of approximately \$500,000.00 per year is 'big business.' With funds from several sources, such as: State, federal and local, there are many regulations pertaining to expenditures and accountability and budgeting is therefore a large part of the board's responsibility. The local City of Galena contributes 3% sales tax to the operation of the school, which was about \$5,520.00 last year.

Curriculum planning is another concern of the board, and funds from Johnson-O'Malley, the Indian Education Act and others are sought.

In the curriculum will be programs in special education, vocational education, bilingual classes and, of course, cultural classes.

In one of the classes, the students have been constructing a miniature house, which can easily be done 'right at home.'

The Independent School of Galena is being looked at by many interested people of the state. The school program gets full attention from the community. Involvement and motiva-

tion of the real parents is needed. It's a tremendous challenge.

Other Board members are Sidney Huntington, the clerk-secretary; Cecelia Burgett, treasurer and Dave Baker and Nick Grimaldi.

Sidney Huntington has been involved with School Boards for about 16 years. He is a local businessman of Galena and through his experience has much to offer the Galena School. Many, many dedicated hours are spent in policy-making, directing and on the over-all program of the school.

One meeting lasted nearly 13 hours and the meetings are quite frequent, for this is the formation period of everything.

Sidney said, "We are doing all of this just for the students. They are the important ones. We have to live and develop our own communities.

"We started a high school three years ago. I am proud to say that the graduating class of Galena 1974 were the students who voted to have a four-year high school.

"So we went to work to get it. You know you are rewarded when you finally accomplish something like this. Being independent, the people of the village have a lot to say.

"It's important to have a good administration. Galena High School graduates have to complete 21 credits to graduate. Involvement will help us get away from welfare and food stamps. Presently there are about 75 high school students and 70 grade school students."

Sidney ordered and paid for a permanent plaque to be housed in the Galena School. It has the

names of the first graduating class of 1974 and a memo written by Sidney as follows:

"It is with pride and sincere appreciation that this trophy is presented to the graduating class of 1974 and 1975, the Pioneer Students of Galena City School. The named graduates deserve the name of true champions for voting 100% in favor to completing their high school in Galena, making this a credit school and the first to become independent since Alaska Statehood.

"I proudly express my gratitude to you graduates for so unselfishly making this a better school to learn in and a better city to live in."

Margaret Aloysius
Ralph Bifelt
Gloria Demientieff
John Demoski
Clarence Demoski
Gilbert Huntington
Orville Huntington
Wayne Huntington
Paulina Pitka
Charlene Strassburg

Sincerely,
Sidney Huntington

The Tanana Chiefs Education Committee felt they had learned much having had the opportunity to meet with the school board all evening and also with the administration.

Attending the meeting were TCC Education Committee members as follows: Sidney Huntington, Galena; Rose Isaacs, Tanacross; Peter Demoski, Nulato; Nancy James, Ft. Yukon and Mary Jane Fate, Fairbanks.

Many thanks to the Galena people for their wonderful hospitality they extended.