

Roger Mooney Visits St. Paul

Director of Early Childhood, Roger Mooney, visited the village of St. Paul located in the Aleutian region to make plans for the new Head Start Program to begin there in September.

The Head Start Director met with Michael Zacharof, a member of the Village Council, on Sunday, the 18th of July, along with Agafon Krukoff, the Village Council President, Alex Melivodov, Chairman of the School Board, and Ted Emanoff, a representative of the Rural CAP Development Corporation, The Aleutian Planning Commission, and some other people from the village.

As the new Head Start Center will begin operation in September, it was necessary, at that time, to elect a Policy Committee and this was done at a meeting where 18 parents of children who will participate in the program were present.

The officers elected were: Alvin Potter, Chairperson, Nina Philemonof, Vice-Chairperson, Anna Lestenkof, Secretary/Treasurer, and the body of the Committee included: Michael Zacharof, Zenaida Kushin, Nadea Tetoff, Vassa Oustingoff, August Buterin, and the physician of the village, Dr. Michael Geitz.

Mooney stated that, "Dr. Geitz was extremely cooperative and should be a real asset to the health component of the Head Start Program."

Films and slides were shown to the Policy Council and the parents of the children to help make them familiar with the purposes and procedures of Head Start. The Teacher-Director for the program was then chosen by the Policy Committee. The person chosen was Karline Barron.

On Wednesday, the children were examined by Dr. Scott Geibink, a physician from Elmen-dorf Air Force Base, and Celia Foley, a speech and hearing therapist from the Special Services Delivery Project and their report states that there are very few health problems among the children.

Dr. Geibink's remarks were that, "These are the healthiest children I have ever seen." Celia Foley did developmental assessments on all of the children.

Teachers and parents of the children were shown how to fill out the pre-school health program control sheet and the Public Health Nurse brought all of the immunizations for the Head Start children up-to-date.

Mooney reports that St. Paul is in excellent shape to have a model Head Start Program, and further states, "The residents are extremely cooperative and enthusiastic about the new program."

Dr. Michael Geitz assured the teacher-director that he would be willing to do any kind of parent education or examination of the children that was requested.

Before the Head Start people left the village, the parents and teacher-director were briefed on aide activities in the classroom, setting up the center, ordering materials and supplies, and writing theme-based lesson plans.