

Native education needs validation meeting

On Friday, November 7, 1980 at the Administration Building of the Anchorage School District (ASD) on DeBarr, several Natives met all day with representatives of the ASD to assess the June and October Position Papers of the Anchorage Native Caucus and the Native Education Coalition which addressed Native educational concerns.

The schedule for the day entailed an introduction by Jeanmarie Crumb, Director of the Community Relations Department, who coordinated this session. Dr. John B. Peper, Superintendent of the ASD welcomed the participants. The group then broke into smaller groups to address the major concern of each group on education. There followed presentations by Edna Lamebull, Director of the Indian Education Program of ASD; Anna Beth Brown, Director of Staff Development; Robert McCormick, Assistant Principal of Bartlett on scheduling; and Bill Tanner, Executive Director of the Personnel Department, all of whom briefly addressed their respective department's functions. The group asked various questions of the presentors, especially from Bill Tanner on the ASD's Affirmative Action Program. Many of the Natives present felt that thirteen Alaska Native teachers out of 1900 teachers in the ASD was unacceptable and wanted to know what the ASD could do to remedy this situation. Mr. Tanner explained that due to their process on hiring, they were re-

stricted in conducting an all-out effort to recruit Alaska Natives. Many Natives still felt more Alaska Native teachers can and should be hired because our children need more role models to follow in the ASD.

After the presentations, the groups again broke again into smaller groups to decide which of the concerns addressed by the Anchorage Native Caucus and Native Education Coalition were of top priority. After the following were determined to be the most important:

1. Drop-out level
2. Affirmative Action
3. A tie between the following;
 - a. Teacher in-service training on Native culture.
 - b. The Position papers of June and October which listed entire concerns on education.
 - c. Alienation of the Native children in the ASD system.

Although the major concerns of the group present were already reflected in the Position paper of June and October, this meeting was to attempt to prioritize the concerns so work could begin on the prioritized concerns in a systematic manner.

The session's concluding remarks were by Jeanmarie Crumb. She stated the Anchorage School District's committee on Native educational concerns would be sending letters to all the Native groups involved asking for representatives to sit on sub-committees to address and recommend solutions for the problems addressed by the Anchorage Native Caucus, the Native Education Coalition and by the group present.