

"I may not agree with a war but I will defend it" - Voltaire

Golovin Village Council Calls for New School

Advisory School Board
Golovin, Alaska 99762
January 1, 1968

Honorable Owen Morken, Area Director
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Juneau Area Office
P. O. Box 3-8000
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: Golovin Day School

Dear Mr. Morken:

We are pleased to know of your interest and knowledge of the dire need for a new school here at Golovin. Your correspondence in regards to the stated matter with our senator, R. R. Blodgett, was read to our newly organized Advisory School Board which met at the schoolhouse on December 7, 1967. An interesting discussion took place with the majority of our adult residents participating. The following are two significant decisions contemplated:

- (1) In as much as this Advisory School Board was organized in compliance to a BIA directive, it was wholeheartedly considered as a desirable medium for making known the needs of our community.
- (2) Because of the recognition of this board by BIA, we felt we had good reason to hope that these needs made known through our board would result in more immediate fulfillment of needed projects.

The board recommends the immediate construction of new school facilities to accomodate a growing community. We point out the fact, also presented by Senator Blodgett, that this village has ample reasons to expect to develop into a thriving community. This belief is based on the existence of two resources, both in the production of food. One is in fishing industry and the other in reindeer. Efforts are being made to stabilize these industries as contributing factors toward the growth of the northwestern portion of our state. Relative to this progression, the need for providing the best available means of instilling within our youth the desire for a better education requires better and up-to-date educational facilities as a prerequisite.

We stress further more objectionable factors, one being overcrowded conditions. This problem we have been aware of for several years. The Education Program of BIA in Alaska 1967-68 discloses an average of 23 pupils per teacher in the one room schools. We have had as many as 32 crowded into one classroom in the past. At the beginning of this school-year, there were 30 students enrolled. Presently, the number is 27 as a result of the transfer of 3 seventh grade students to Wrangell Institute. Needless to say, crowded classrooms are not conducive to better education.

Last, but by no means the least, our facilities are in various stages of deterioration ranging from obsolete to very poor. The building which is used for the hot lunch program was not originally a part of the BIA facilities and is of early 1900's vintage. It has a wooden floor which probably hasn't been scrubbed with soap and water for decades for the floor is full of splinters and would only absorb the water. However, on rainy days it gets a dousing from water dripping through the ceiling.

We as members of the Golovin Advisory School Board do hereby join State Senator R. R. Blodgett in informing you of our need and desire to have funds appropriated to construct a new BIA day school in Golovin.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Stanley R. Amarok, Chairman
Advisory School Board

We hereby endorse the recommendations presented by the
Golovin Advisory School Board.

Golovin Village Council
/s/ Floyd Fagerstrom, President
Stanley R. Amarok, Secretary

cc: Robert Bennett, Commissioner
Bob Bartlett, Senator
Ernest Gruening, Senator
Howard W. Pollock, Representative
R. R. Blodgett, Senator
Howard Rock, Editor, Tundra Times
Robert Davis, superintendent, BIA