

Summary of Resolutions

A summary of the resolutions passed and considered at the recent Annual Convention of the AFN, Inc. are as follows:

Resolution 74-1 That: AFN, Inc. requests the Alaska State Legislature to appropriate funds for the accredited institutions of higher education (University of Alaska and branch colleges) in the amount, to offset reductions in Federal funds; in order that the Alaska Student Higher Education Services Project will remain at the same level of funding, as it has over the past four years. (Passed)

Resolution 74-2 Resolved by AFN, Inc. that secondary education programs on either a local or area basis be provided by the State of Alaska to those communities not now having these services for their high school-age students. (Passed)

Resolution 74-3 Resolved by AFN, Inc. that the Ninth Legislature of the State of Alaska authorize and appropriate adequate funds for a new and thorough study of school finances for both rural and urban schools throughout the State to insure that adequate financing plans

will be available, and that a concomitant provision be made for re-financing either a like study of or a thorough review of the foundation system at three-year intervals. (Passed)

Resolution 74-4 Resolved that the school district nearest to, adjacent to, or surrounding a military base be mandated to assume jurisdiction for the operation of the on-base school (except Adak) based on a State-school district contract negotiated by the State Department of Education. (Passed)

Resolution 74-5 That the AFN, Inc. endorses the transition of non-independent schools to independent status, that to this end the Alaska State-Operated School System be designated a transitional system, and that all Bureau of Indian Affairs schools and rural Alaska State-Operated Schools should become either independent school districts or part of independent school districts under municipal structure, contingent upon the availability of State revenues, and that the State Department of Education should accept and exert a leadership role for and during the transition. (Passed)

Resolution 74-5 (A) (This resolution was tabled for further study) Stresses that the State Dept. of Education continue its current efforts in the transition process of non-independent schools to independent status. After July 1, 1975 Dept. of Education should expand its activities by developing a formal transition plan which will be due to the State Legislature by June 30, 1976, with an interim report to the second session of the Ninth Legislature at its reconvening. The transition plan should build on both the transitional nature of the Alaska State-Operated School System and the current Presidential/Secretarial objective to provide BIA school communities with information about and assistance for local determination concerning the operation of that school, while Dept. of Education works with the BIA schools to insure compliance with State laws and with Dept. of Education regulations. The transition plan should include expansion of the Statewide educational support system (e.g. media services, bilingual education) and should become a part of the overall State educational plan. Provision should also be made in the transition plan that for any communities not ready to become completely independent at the end of a formally established transition period, Department of Education will be responsible for providing education for those communities with their concurrence (e.g. by contract with nearby school district or on contract with BIA, etc.)

Resolution 74-5 (B) Resolved that to facilitate and to manage the transition process either a new Division of School District Development be established or the mandate of the existing Division of Field Services be expanded to include the functions listed, and that the designated Division within the Department of Education be adequately funded and begin activities as of July 1, 1975. (Passed)

(Continued in two weeks)