

SCOMM

#19:10

#7  
PRESS RELEASE

Attached is a telegram of July 26, 1976 detailing some of our concerns about the very important issue of bilingual-bicultural education presently of issue throughout the State. The telegram was transmitted to Senators Stevens and Gravel, and to the Directors of the Office of Civil Rights in Washington, D.C. and Seattle.

AVCP Statement  
page 2


The following was telegraphed July 26, 1977 by the Association of Village Council Presidents to Senators Gravel and Stevens, and to the Directors of The Office for Civil Rights in Washington, D.C. and Seattle:

I am contacting you on behalf of the Association of Village Council Presidents, the tribal unit representing the 56 villages of the Lower Kuskokwim and Yukon River. The Yukon Kuskokwim delta is an area in which there is a crying need for extensive and aggressive bilingual-bicultured educational programs. Presently, and in the past, there have been no serious efforts in this region, indeed statewide, to deliver viable bilingual education, yet the primary educational problems of our children all are directly related to the failure of the schools to adequately address their linguistic and cultural backgrounds. We therefore fully support the negotiated compliance plan known as "A Handbook for Alaska Native Language Programs" as the first step in a serious educational effort to address student's Linguistic needs. The present HEW Office of Civil Rights enforcement proceeding should therefore be encouraged to continue to enforce rights to equal educational opportunities for Native children. This enforcement process must not be embroiled in Washington politics. While some administrators are opposing the Handbook, people in our villages and those knowledgeable in the field of bilingual education are supporting the negotiated plan. A copy of an article appearing in the "The Tundra Drums" July 16, 1977, which does an excellent job of stating the importance of this issue will be forwarded for your information. As the Handbook was written and negotiated by Alaskan educators intimately familiar with the linguistic needs of our children, and was not imposed by "Outside" agencies, we trust that you will give it your full support. <sup>11</sup>

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Carl Jack  
Association of Village Council  
President

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Carl Jack  
Association of Village Council  
President

SCOMM

#19:11

McGrath, Alaska  
October 13, 1977

#8  
Katherine T. Hurley  
Chairman  
State Board of Education

Dear Mrs. Hurley

The State Advisory Council on Bilingual/Bicultural Ed. met in Anchorage on October 4-6 and passed the inclosed resolution in support of the Handbook for Bilingual/Bicultural Education.

I understand that the State Department of Education has now come up with alternate regulations which they are negotiating with OCR. I am concerned that this will lead us into the courts and result in further delay and an additional outlay of time and money which could be better spent in serving students.

From what is happening around the state I get the impression that OCR is being portrayed as the "bad guy" attempting to force the handbook on the state, when the handbook was prepared by State directive to meet the Lau guidelines. I think we must admit that students have not been and are not being provided an equal education around the State because of unmet language needs. OCR is doing us a service by forcing us to pay attention to these needs.

As one who worked on the handbook I will admit it does not contain all the answers but it is a start and does provide some sample program models which meet the guidelines. It does provide that each District will draw up its own plan of service which could deviate from the handbook. Perhaps this option should be strengthened.

The Iditarod area School District (of which I am chairman) and several other rural Bistricts have signed an agreement with OCR which brings us in to compliance and lifts the deferrals but it is contingent upon action by the State on the Handbook and the adoption of additional funding by the Legislature or we are once more in non compliance.

If the Advisory Council can assist in resolving this issue please notify us as we were established to assist the State Board of Education and the DOE by acting in an advisory capacity on Bilingual/Bicultural policy.

cc Judy Franklet

Sincerely,

*Raymond L. Collins*

Raymond L. Collins

Chairman

State Advisory Council on  
Bilingual/Bicultural ED.

Motion passed at OCT 4-6 meeting of B/B Advisory Council

The Alaska State Advisory Council for Bilingual/Bicultural Education recommends to the State Board of Education that the "Handbook for Bilingual/Bicultural Education Programs in Alaska" be adopted as minimal guidelines for Bilingual/Bicultural Education in Alaska with the following amendments:

1. Local native elders and/or other ethnic resource people will be used as consultants in the development of appropriate materials for classroom use. Such consultants shall be compensated at an appropriate consultant rate. (this recommendation to be inserted at the appropriate place on page 82).
2. Note that the term Bilingual Education Committee can sometimes be misleading when talking about category E students and Districts may consider another term more appropriate for their situation such as:  
Language Arts Committee  
Bilingual/Bicultural Committee  
Cultural Arts Committee  
Multicultural Committee
3. Recommend that the sentence "The local bilingual committee shall also be trained to understand the opportunities, the issues, and the options available to them as they determine what kind of educational programs will best meet their students' needs." found on page 43 be inserted after the sentence "--- Your District must provide training about the powers and duties of the local committee, this handbook, and the plan of services to be developed by the district." found on page 42.

and further that the DOE make clear to districts that the handbook is only a minimum and the districts are encouraged to develop plans of service which go beyond the guidelines in response to the diverse community needs and desires.

Submitted by

*Raymond L. Collins*

Raymond L. Collins

Chairman

State Advisory Council for

Bilingual Bicultural Education