



**Southwest
Region
School
District**

*P.O. Box 90
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Dillingham, AK 99576*

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February 23, 2011

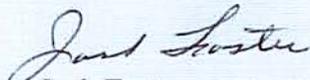
Alice Ruby, Mayor
P.O. Box 889
Dillingham, AK 99576
mayor@dillinghamak.us

Dear Mayor Ruby:

Please find attached a resolution in which Southwest Region School District urges the Local Boundary Commission to deny the petition for annexation because it would impose taxes on the residents of the area without provision of services which reduction income is likely to negatively impact the health of families in the area with attendant decreases in student's educational performance or force families to move from the communities, leaving insufficient populations to support school sites.

The Resolution was passed, approved and adopted by the School Board of the Southwest Region School District on February 21, 2011.

Sincerely yours,


Jack Foster
Superintendent

Cc: Local Boundary Commission

Aleknagik

Clark's Point

Ekwok

Koliganek

Manokotak

New Stuyahok

Togiak

Twin Hills

SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOL BOARD

RESOLUTION NO. 11-04

A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE PETITION FOR ANNEXATION BY THE CITY OF DILLINGHAM

WHEREAS Southwest Region School District serves students in a Regional Educational Attendance Area bordered by Bristol Bay to the south, the Kuskokwim Mountains to the west and north, and the Aleutian Range to the east including the communities of Aleknagik, Clark's Point, Ekwok, Koliganek, Manokotak, New Stuyahok, Togiak, and Twin Hills;

WHEREAS the villages served by Southwest Region Schools are located 15 to 75 miles from Dillingham, the largest community in the region. Of the eight villages, only Aleknagik is accessible by road from Dillingham and all of the other villages are accessed by air, primarily using small, single engine planes;

WHEREAS the families of a significant percentage of the students served by Southwest Region Schools live below the poverty line;

WHEREAS the region's primary economic base is commercial fishing in the summer, and subsistence hunting and fishing in the winter. The permanent populations of some of the communities served by Southwest Region schools are relatively small. For example, the summer population of Clark's Point associated with the commercial fishery can swell into the hundreds but then dwindles to several dozen year round residents (11 of whom held commercial fishing permits in 2009 according to the State of Alaska, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Division of Community and Regional Affairs). The year-round population of Clark's Point currently includes a sufficient number of children to barely support an elementary school;

WHEREAS the Southwest Region School District is concerned that if the fishermen who live in the communities whose students it serves are required to pay new taxes to the City of Dillingham without receiving equivalent services in exchange, those fishermen may not have sufficient funds available to take care of the basic needs of themselves and their families, resulting in reductions in the quality of life of school children and associated decreases in educational performance or in families being forced to leave the village and thereby decreasing the permanent population below levels necessary to support a school;

WHEREAS the proposed annexation may also affect the Southwest Region School District, which has the power to petition to create a borough in the region, 3 AAC 110.410(a)(5). If Dillingham annexes and taxes fishing activity in territory that is part of the region, but not really part of the community of Dillingham, then that may lessen the capacity of surrounding areas to produce or maintain revenue to support a borough or may foster Dillingham opposing borough formation. In light of these dynamics, the boundary commission should consider the appropriateness of creating a borough before permitting the City of Dillingham to claim that territory;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwest Region School District affirms the need for stable minimum populations in the communities it serves to provide sufficient numbers of students to maintain its school sites;

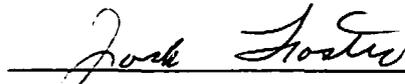
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Southwest Region School District urges the Local Boundary Commission to deny the petition for annexation because it would impose taxes on the residents of the area without provision of services which reduction income is likely to negatively impact the health of families in the area with attendant decreases in student's educational performance or force families to move from the communities, leaving insufficient populations to support school sites.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE SCHOOL BOARD OF THE SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOL DISTRICT THIS 21ST DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2011:



President, Southwest Region Schools

02-21-11
Date



Superintendent, Southwest Region Schools

02-21-11
Date