CITY OF DILLINGHAM, ALASKA

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-05

A RESOLUTION OF THE DILLINGHAM CITY COUNCIL EXPRESSING THANKS AND COMMENDATION TO MS. SOPHIE WOODS

WHEREAS, Ms. Sophie Woods was first hired by the Dillingham City School District as an instructional aide at the elementary school in 1967; and

WHEREAS, in her long career with the school, Ms. Woods has taken on many roles including helping the teachers to prepare for their classes, recess duty, tutoring students in reading and math, monitoring and supervising the K – 5 lunch program while entertaining the students with stories, games and Native dancing, helping to maintain the elementary library, serving as an assistant to the High school librarian for a year, helping in a high school English classroom, substituting in classrooms during brief teacher absences, becoming the school bilingual instructor for a time when the position was vacated in the middle of the year and generally serving wherever needed; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Woods took on the responsibility of teaching special Native dancing to many different elementary classrooms; often giving the children Yupik names. She shared stories and encouraged storytelling. She has never been reluctant to use the opportunity to teach the Yupik language and Yupik spelling to both students and teachers; and,

WHEREAS, it was with great pride and respect that the community and the world watched Ms. Woods use 48 years of teacher training to lead President Barak Obama through the "Alai" dance during his visit to Dillingham in 2015. There was no better suited representative of our school and community to join with students to share their skills and cultural knowledge with President Obama; and,

WHEREAS, Ms. Woods has been an exceptional teacher with a genuine desire to make learning fun and interesting; using games and modeling with her own interest and excitement to keep children engaged. She added curiosity and enthusiasm to so many lessons and subjects when in the classroom; and

WHEREAS, at the end of the 2017-2018 school year Ms. Woods plans to retire after 50 years of dedicated service with the Dillingham City School District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dillingham City Council offers this commendation with our deepest gratitude and thanks to Ms. Sophie Woods for sharing her passion for learning, her skills, her talents, and her cultural knowledge for a brief 50 years with generations of students at the Dillingham school district.

PASSED and ADOPTED by the Dillingham City Council on May 10, 2018.

SEAL:

Alice Ruby, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lori Goodell, City Clerk