

Fond du Lac Ojibwe School History



Fond du Lac Ojibwe School Position Paper
by Tom Peacock and Don Wiesen
October 1980

Goal: The Fond du Lac Reservation shall plan and establish a secondary school to serve...Indian students in need of meaningful and appropriate education.

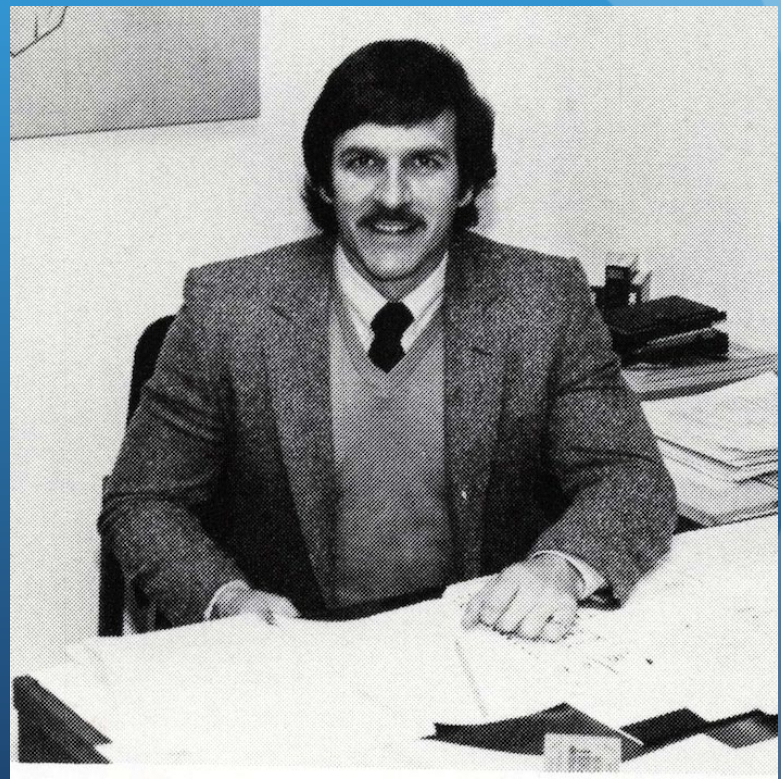
...We see the need for “academics”, reading, speaking, math, science. They are important elements in a society (culture) and the school will meet those requirements. The need to communicate is essential in all cultures. Skills taught should take on the characteristics of the culture. Our thrust will be to educate the Indian children the Indian way, to teach them the skills necessary to survive in a changing and volatile world. We will instruct them in the old ways; teach them the language, the way to use the land, the sun, and the animals. Our children must be taught these ways as a base of their education.



Tom Peacock



Don Wiesen



Original school construction 1980



Original school construction



Original school construction



In January, 1981 the Fond du Lac Ojibwe School opened to students in grades 7-12. The first enrollment was around 28 students that grew to nearly 50 the first full school year (1981-82). The school shared space with the Head Start program and the school cafeteria hosted the first Fond du Lac bingo operation in the evenings and on weekends.



**Roses are red,
Violets are blue,
The Ojibway School
Will be right for you.**

--Scott Bassett, Student

The Grand Opening of Fond du Lac Reservation's Ojibway School was greeted by a bright, crystal day and approximately 350 friends of all ages.

The ceremony began with Chairman William Houle reading letters and telegrams of good will by such notables as U.S. Senators Dave Durenberger and Rudy Boschwitz. Other dignitaries were in the huge crowd, including State Representative Mary Murphy, Cloquet Mayor Arlene Wolner, Dick Wolfe of the Minneapolis Area Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Rex Mayotte, Superintendent, Minnesota Agency, BIA, as well as Ruth Myers, Chairperson of the State Board of Education.

Chairman Houle cracked his usual jokes before turning the microphone over

to Ike Greensky of FdL's Health and Social Services Division. Ike spoke but briefly, then introduced his friend of many years, Jimmy Jackson, a Midewin Medicine Man and spiritual elder. Jimmy led the pipe ceremony, communicating in Ojibwe with the Great Spirit, while the crowd stood moved, absorbed in the elder's strong, vibrating voice.

Hartley White, Chairman of the Leech Lake Reservation Business Committee, arrived with a student delegation from the Chief Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School, which presented the Fond du Lac Ojibway School with a work of Indian art.

Don Wiesen, Education Director of Fond du Lac, accepted the thoughtful gift from Leech Lake Reservation.

The festivities lasted throughout the day, and included a feast featuring traditional foods such as venison, wild rice, and fry bread. Many thanks to the cooks, Marge Higbee, Sylvia Smith and June Pellerin, and to all the others who made the Grand Opening a grand success.



**Among the guests was Will Antell,
Assistant Commissioner for Special and
Compensatory Education, State of
Minnesota**

Jimmy Jackson conducts the pipe ceremony for the opening of the school with Ike Greensky, Bill Houle and an unknown student looking on. December 1980



Staff, guests, and students look on during the dedication of the Ojibwe School in December 1980.



In January of 1981 the Fond du Lac Ojibwe School opened to serve the needs of Indian students who weren't being served in the public schools surrounding the reservation.

At this time Fond du Lac elders Joe Shabiash, Mike Shabiash and Jimmy Jackson were approached, offered tobacco and were asked to be spiritual and cultural advisors for the school. They knew that the kids weren't aware of their roots, of who they were.

They agreed to be advisors for the school. The school needed two items: the pipe and the drum. The drum was made with the help of Joe and Mike Shabiash and six students from the Ojibwe School. They learned how to offer tobacco and construct the drum. They wrote down everything they learned about making the drum. The pipe was given to the school by Jimmy Jackson (it may have been made by Jeff Savage).

In 1982 a community feast was held at the compound where Jimmy Jackson and Joe Shabiash talked about the direction of the school. They said that no matter where you are, no matter where you're working or where you go that you should remember who you are and where you came from. You need to remember your roots and that you can always return and are always welcome among The People.

The students respected, learned, and realized the power and strength of the drum. Pipe ceremonies were held each Monday morning and Friday afternoons with drumming and singing afterward. The drum was left out all week with someone always present to watch over it.

1981



1980-81



1981-82



Breakfast time.





Del Shabiash and Jason Bongo



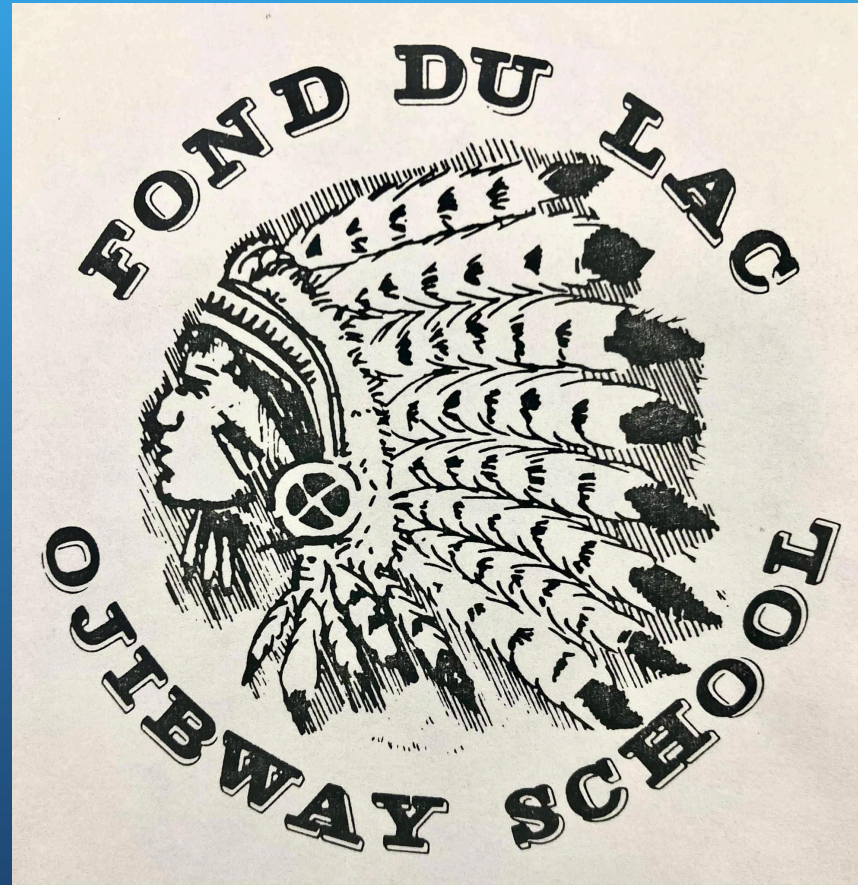
1982

SCHOOL BOARD



from left to right: Nora Hakala, Evelyn Olson,
Peggy Lund, Don Wiesen.

Original Letterhead



Ojibwe School Logo





Fond du Lac



Ojibwe School

Library



Cafeteria



First Computer Lab



Kitchen



School Board 1982

Peggy Lund, Evelyn Olson, Nora Hakala, Chuck Smith, Kathy Peil



RBC 1982

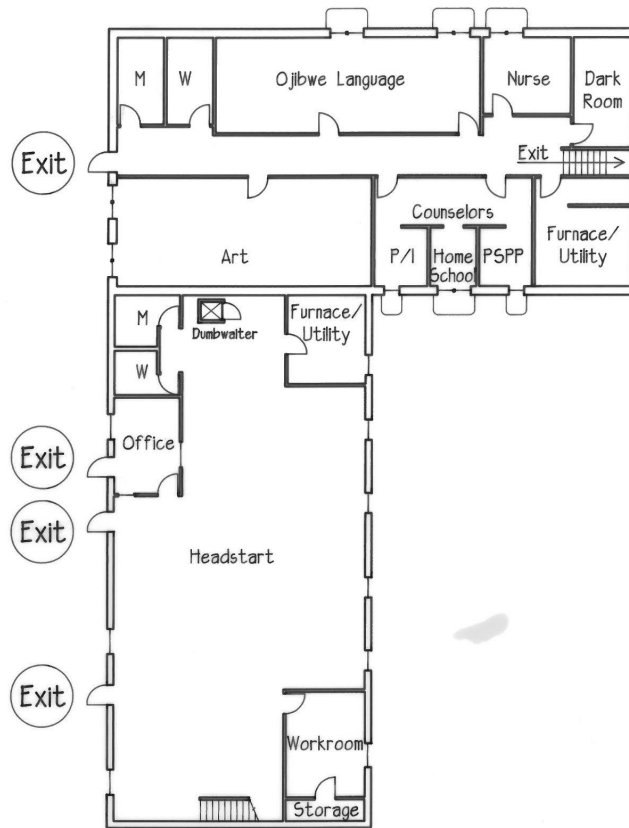
Herman Wise, Harvey Defoe, Bill Houle, Bernie Loons, Sr., John Smith



1982

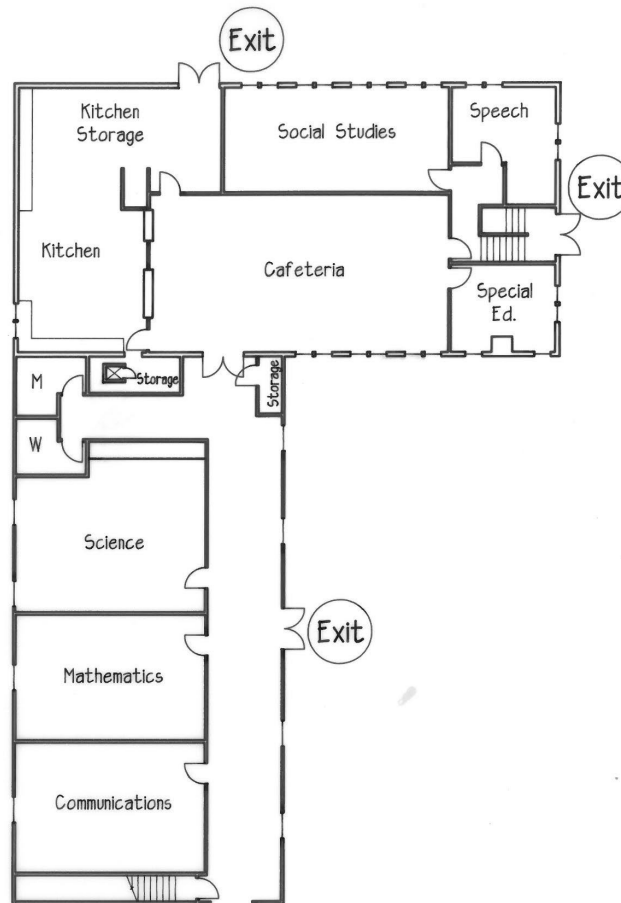


Basement level floor plan



Fond du Lac Reservation
Ojibwe School

Main floor plan



Fond du Lac Reservation
Ojibwe School

Main corridor...



...doubled as the dining room for prom.



School gym/bingo hall







Ziigwan Celebration



Pancake Breakfast



1988 K-6 Addition



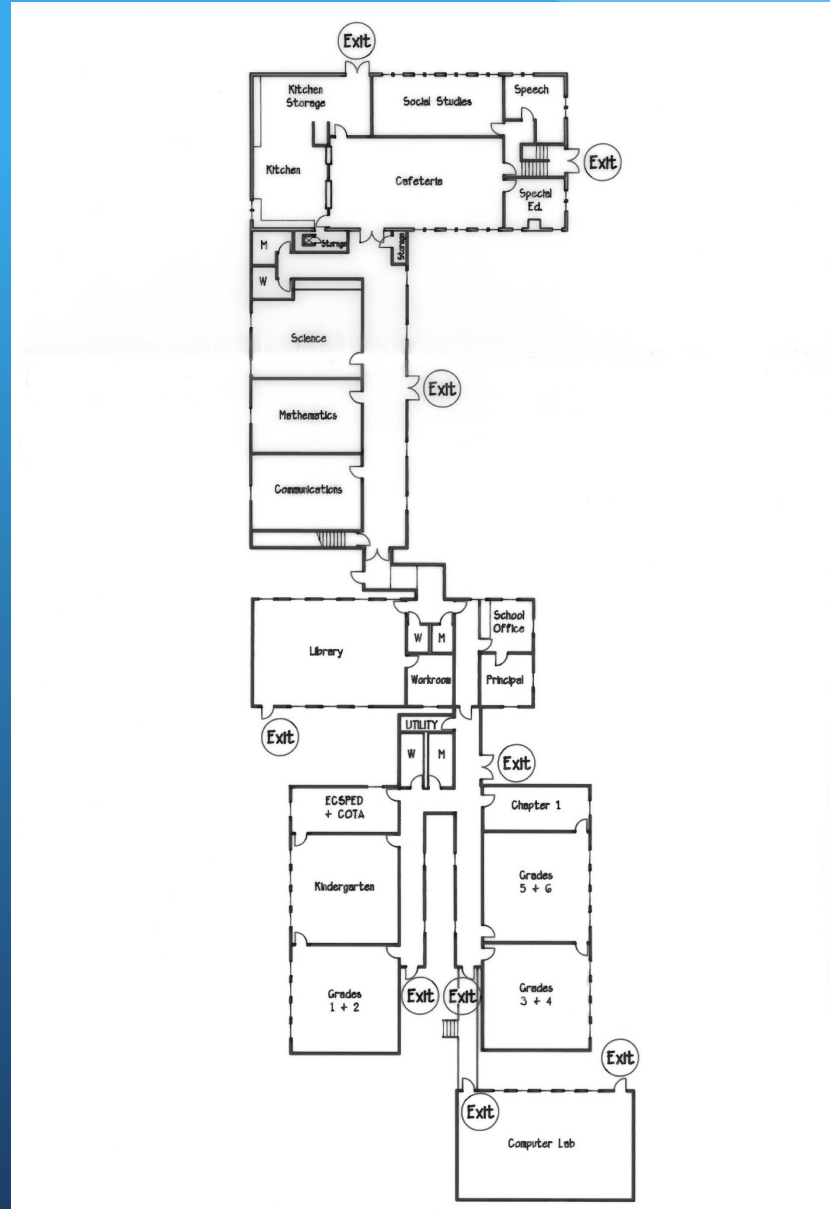


The “Barnum Building”.





1988 K-6 Addition Floor Plan



Riverwatch



Rep. Oberstar visits the Ojibwe School.



Roof Repair



1992 New School Construction Application

Fond Du Lac Reservation Business Committee

105 University Road,
Cloquet, MN 55720
tel (218) 879-4593
(218) 879-4146



January 28, 1992

Chairman
Robert B. Peacock

Secretary/Treasurer
Peter J. Defoe

Dist. I Councilman
Clifton Rabideaux

Dist. II Councilman
Herman Wise

Dist. III Councilman
George Dupuis

Executive Director
L. Jean Mulder

Ed Parisian, Director
Office of Indian Education Programs
1849 C Street, NW
Mail Stop 3512-MIB
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Parisian:

Attached is the Fond du Lac Reservation's updated application for new school construction. This request is to build a \$7.5 million school to replace the existing hodgepodge of temporary classrooms.

The existing facility is inadequate to address the current and future growth needs of the students on the reservation. It consists primarily of wooden structures and temporary classrooms units, offering little opportunity to grow and provide the high quality education we would like to offer. The existing buildings are in need of extensive remodeling and repair.

This application updates enrollment projections based upon 1991 community survey and includes reservation pre-school children figures based upon the 1991-1992 JOM count.

We look forward to working with your office on this request and trust it will be given a fair and impartial review.

Sincerely,

Robert B. Peacock
Chairman
Fond du Lac Reservation
105 University Road
Cloquet, MN 55720

cc: Betty Walker, Education Administrator
Minneapolis Area Office
Doug Johnson, Facilities Manager
Minneapolis Area Office

1993 New School Ranking



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT & CONSTRUCTION CENTER

500 GOLD AVE. SW - 8TH FLOOR

P. O. BOX 1248

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87103

IN REPLY REFER TO:

105-40x

MAR 18 1993

Mr. Robert Peacock
Chairman, Fond Du Lac Reservation Business Committee
105 University Road
Cloquet, MN 55720

Dear Mr. Peacock:

On January 6, 1993, the attached "Education Facilities Construction Priority List as of FY 1993" was published in the FEDERAL REGISTER. Five new schools were added to the Fiscal Year 1992 priority list. Fond Du Lac Ojibwe School is ranked number 14 on the list. Now that your school is on the priority list, we would like to inform you of the various phases or project activities that will be undertaken until the project is completed. We have briefly summarized the various steps for your information in the attached Education Facilities Development Process Summary.

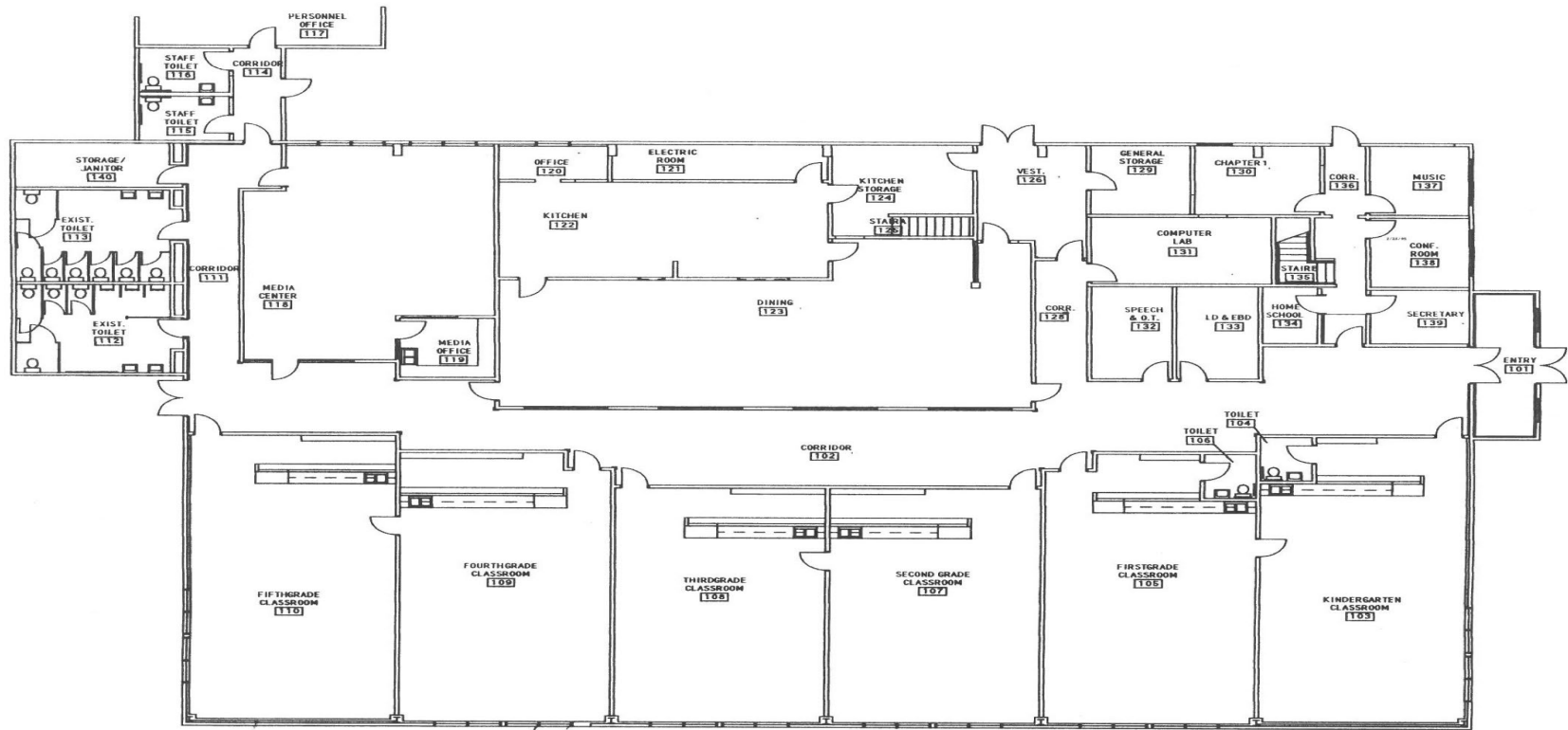
First, starting with the highest ranked new school added to the FY 1992 list, staff from the Facilities Management and Construction Center (FMCC) will work with tribally-designated representatives to develop the necessary planning documents. Planning documents consist of Education Specifications and Program of Requirements. As an alternative to the FMCC staff taking the lead in the development of planning documents, the Tribe or the tribal organization (Fond Du Lac Reservation Business Committee) may choose to develop the planning documents using a P.L.93-638 contract. A future option, use of granting authority as provided in P.L. 101-301, Tribally Controlled School Grant, will be available as soon as implementation procedures are developed. A Task Group has been established to develop implementation procedures, however, it is not expected that the implementation procedures will be completed and approved within the immediate future. Therefore, it appears that use of already established contracting procedures is the quickest means of accomplishing the planning phase of the new Fond Du Lac Ojibwe School.

The planning phase for your new school will commence based on the following factors:

1. Your school's ranking position on the Priority List as of FY 1993 (planning of projects will be done in the order in which they are ranked on the list), and
2. The availability of funds to complete the planning documents.

In an effort to manage the various program activities relative to this project in the most effective, efficient, and expeditious manner possible, it is important to know what method of implementation the Tribe wishes to use and a primary contact with whom this office can

1995 K-5 Renovation Project











Dan Lund, Pokey, Dan Anderson



1996 Planning and Design Award

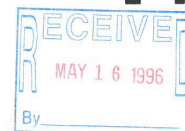


IN REPLY REFER TO:

Office of Indian
Education Programs

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
MINNEAPOLIS AREA OFFICE
331 SOUTH 2ND AVENUE
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55401-2241



May 14, 1996

Memorandum

To: Acting Director, Facilities Management and Construction
Center

From: Education Programs Administrator, Minneapolis Area
Grants Officer

Subject: Grant Application - Pre-Award, A/E Selection, Planning
and Design Project #93F5N; Fond du Lac Band of Lake
Superior Chippewa

This memorandum supersedes my memorandum of 5/14/96.

This Office and the FMCC staff have negotiated the Grant's requirements with the Grantee in accordance with 43 CFR Part 12. Based on these negotiations, the project budget amount of \$578,989.00 has been agreed upon as the funds required to implement the project.

As Grants Officer for the Fond du Lac Ojibwe School Planning and Design Project - 93F5N, I am requesting that the suballotment of funds for planning and design be released for modification into the Fond du Lac Reservation Business Committee's Public Law 100-297 grant number GT53X51096.

If I can be of further assistance, please contact me at (612) 373/1091.

Attachment

cc: Director, Office of Indian Education Programs
Director, Facilities Transition Program Staff
Facilities/Safety Manager, Minneapolis Area Office
Mr. Keith Miller, FMCC (GOTR)
Chairman, Fond du Lac Reservation Business Committee
School Administrator, Fond du Lac Ojibwe School

Student Letters to Senator Wellstone

February 27, 1997
Tond-du-Lac Ojibwe School
Cloquet, MN

Dear Senator Wellstone,

I am writing to ask you, for a new school. Our school ~~is~~ has ~~broken~~ windows are leaking, we have holes in our wall, windows have to be boarded up, our roofs are almost falling in, it gets cold once in a while, water ~~is~~ leaks from the roofs and walls. I like Tond-du-Lac School because it's nice and I want this school up next year and 4-ever because the kids in the future can go to Tond-du-Lac School because it's nice here you can learn about their own culture and the teachers are nice here.

We all just want a new school. Can you please help us out?

~~Thank you~~ Thanks
Sincerely

Lisa Martin

F.D.L. Homes

#12 Cloquet, MN

55 720

February 10,
1997

Dear Senator Zellstone,

I am a fourth grade student
at Little Black Bear Elementary school on
the Fond du Lac Reservation in Cloquet
MN. I'm writing to you because our high
school is old. It doesn't have hot water and
there's spray paint on the front door. It
needs more fire extinguishers to make it
safer. It looks old. We need a new
high school. Could you please help?

Sincerely,

Maggie Dyer

274 Jack pine Dr.
Cloquet M.N. 55720
February 4, 1994

Dear Senator Wellstone,

I am a fourth grade student at Little Black Bear Elementary School on the Fond du Lac Reservation in Cloquet M.N. I am writing to you because our high school is old. I think it is dangerous because the roof is going to come in and the paint is chipping off. I'm going to be a sixth grader in two years and I don't want to get hurt at that age. So what I'm asking is would you please get some money for a new high school. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Shala
Topping

PAUL D. WELLSTONE
MINNESOTA

MINNESOTA TOLL FREE NUMBER:
1-800-642-6041

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2303

COMMITTEES:
LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES
SMALL BUSINESS
INDIAN AFFAIRS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
FOREIGN RELATIONS

April 10, 1997

Mr. Dan Anderson
Fond Du Lac Objibwe School
105 University Road
Cloquet, MN 55720

Dear Mr. Anderson:

Thank you for sending me copies of letters from Ojibwe School students, parents, and teachers. I appreciate having the benefit of their letters regarding the urgency of funding to build a new or renovated tribal school on the Fond du Lac Reservation.

As a teacher for 20 years, I know how important it is for the U.S. government to commit the necessary time, energy, and funding for educational facilities. These letters are very valuable to me, and to other members of the Senate, in understanding the urgent need to fund construction of American Indian schools, and I will be submitting the letters that you provided me to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior for insertion into the record for the hearing on the BIA budget. Please be assured that I will be working closely with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Senate appropriators, in efforts to secure funding for this important project.

Again, thanks for your letter. I hope you will continue to keep me informed about this, and other issues of importance to you, and to the children of the Fond du Lac Ojibwe School.

Sincerely,



Paul David Wellstone
United States Senator

PDW:mrw

☐ HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2303
(202) 224-5641

☐ 2550 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, WEST
COURT INTERNATIONAL BUILDING
ST. PAUL, MN 55114-1025
(612) 645-0323

☐ POST OFFICE BOX 281
105 2D AVENUE, SOUTH
VIRGINIA, MN 55792
(218) 741-1074

☐ 417 LITCHFIELD AVENUE, SW
WILLMAR, MN 56201
(320) 231-0001

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER



1998 Ojibwe School Portable Buildings





The Anish

May 1998

Volume 1 Issue 1



MIDDLE SCHOOL CLOSES ITS MOLDY DOORS

The halls are dark and silent. Mold grows along the floorboards, as mildew drifts through the empty classrooms.

For years students and teachers have been complaining of fatigue, headaches, and an abundance of colds in the Ojibwe School but last week it got to be too much.

On April 30th, middle school students and staff left their classrooms for what may be the rest of the school year. Later that day a letter was sent home to parents notifying them of their child's educational setting.

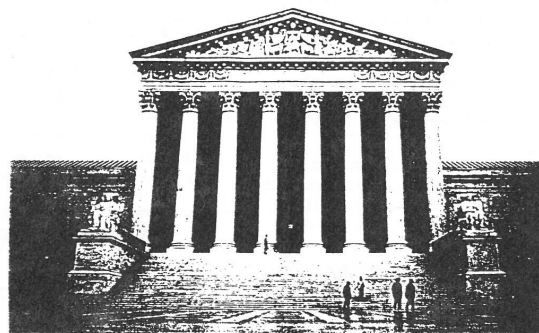
On Monday April 4th an air quality test was done by the Institute for Environmental Assessment headquartered in Minneapolis. Administration is still awaiting results.

Principal Kim Granberg said that students were moved because of the "unidentifiable odor and so many complaints by students and staff that it's in their best interest."

"unidentifiable odor and so many complaints by students and staff that it's in their best interests."

Middle Schoolers are now holding classes in the high school commons area, Oji's social studies room, and the computer lab.

Many high school student are displeased with the change. "There are so many disruptions caused by these younger students," said eleventh grader Pat Defoe. "They stomp along and run through the halls but its not all of them."



One of the sights visited by students while at Close-Up. The Supreme Court in Washington D.C..

photo courtesy of Pat Defoe

VOYAGE TO WASHINGTON D.C.

On April 26 several juniors and seniors from th Ojibwe School went to Washington D.C.

This was third Close-Up trip Lisa Oji. OJS social studies teacher, has organized for the Ojibwe School. She said the purpose of the trip is for, "students to see the U.S. government in action and the relationship between tribal and U.S. governemnts."

Roce Sam, Violet Anderson, Alex Hernandez, Janelle Petite, and Pat De-

foe attended seminars, workshops, and lectures for one week. they also rode the subways, went shopping, and did some sightseeing at places like Capitol Hill.

Students met with their state representatives and discussed issues of importance.

Ojibwe School students met with Sen. Paul Wellstone and asked if he would be running for president. He answered in such a way that students felt he would.

Turn to VOYAGE on pg.3

inside...

chat line editorial see MY TWO BITS
Student Incentive Program see POINTS IS A PLUS
Sports by Brandon Legore
This months HORROR-SCOPES

page 2
page 2
page 3
page 5

In 1999 Congress appropriates \$14.3 million for the construction of a new pre-K-12 Fond du Lac Ojibwe School.

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(907) 586-5880
FACSIMILE (907) 586-5883

OF COUNSEL
ARTHUR LAZARUS, JR.
ROGER W. DUBROCK (AK)

November 18, 1999

MEMORANDUM NO. 180-99

HARRY R. SACHSE
REID PEYTON CHAMBERS
WILLIAM R. PERRY
LLOYD BENTON MILLER (AK)
DOUGLAS B.L. ENDRESON
MYRA M. MURSON (AK)
ANNE D. NOTO
KAY E. MAASSEN GOUWENS (AK)
MARY J. PAVEL
JAMES E. CLAYE (AK)
COLIN C. HAMPSON
NACOLE D. HESLEY (AK)
JAMES T. MCGORSTO
AMY L. LOCILLER
DEVIN R. ODELL (AK)

*NOT ADMITTED IN D.C.

MARTIN J. SONOSKY (1908-1987)

BY TELECOPIER, ORIGINAL BY MAIL

To: Fond du Lac Reservation Business Committee

From: Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse & Endreson

Subject: FY 2000 School Construction Funding—Congress provides \$14.3 million for the Fond du Lac Ojibway School

We are pleased to report the House-Senate Conference on the FY 2000 Omnibus Appropriations bill has included \$14.3 million for the construction of the Fond du Lac Ojibway School. We congratulate you on this success.

As you will recall, the House-Senate Conference on the Interior Appropriations bill only provided enough funding to fully fund the Seba Dalkai Boarding School, while providing partial funding to phase-in the construction of both the Fond du Lac Ojibway School and the Shiprock Alternative School. Specifically, the Conference Report provided \$6.363 million for the construction of the Fond du Lac Ojibway School for FY 2000, with the remainder to be appropriated in FY 2001.

However, in recent negotiations between the House and Senate leadership and the Administration on the FY 2000 Omnibus Appropriations bill, this level was increased to provide full funding for all three schools. This means the Band will receive \$14.3 million, which is the amount requested by the BIA in its FY 2000 Budget request.

The bill is expected to be approved by the House and the Senate either late today or early tomorrow. The President is then expected to sign the bill. Again, we congratulate the Band on this tremendous success.

Respectfully submitted,

SONOSKY, CHAMBERS, SACHSE & ENDRESON

By: Mary J. Pavel
Anne D. Noto

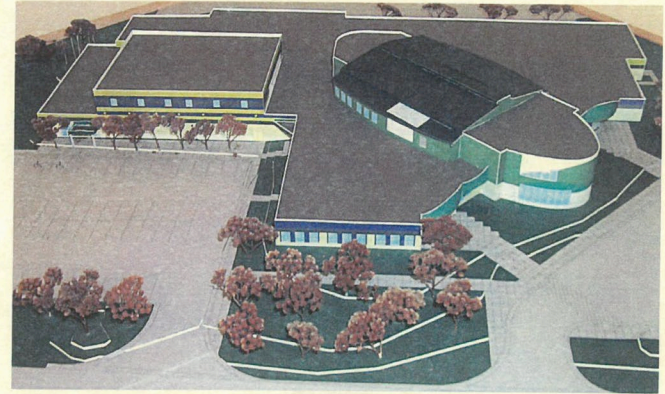


University Avenue-
County Road 5

*Fond du Lac Reservation
Coordially Invites You
to the
New Ojibwe School
Ground Breaking Ceremony*



Wednesday, September 27th, 2000



When: Wednesday, September 27th 2000

Where: Fond du Lac Ojibwe School Gym

Time: 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

- Pipe Ceremony
- Drum Song
- Guest Speakers
- Ground Breaking Ceremony
- Feast



*R.S.V.P.
Fond du Lac Education
c/o Groundbreaking Ceremony
1720 Big Lake Road
Cloquet, M.N 55720
(218) 878-4648*



Groundbreaking October 2000





Construction

October 2000 - December 2001







January 2001



February 2001



February 2001



March 2001



March 2001



April 2001



April 2001



April 2001



April 2001







March 15, 2001



April 10, 2001



May 16, 2001



July 1, 2001





October 1, 2001



Stained Glass by Colette of a Norval Morrisseau work, presented to the Ojibwe School by DSGW Architects.



January 7, 2002





All staff and students, 2002



Billy Blackwell at JOM 2008



FACE Program 2007



Jarvis and Maggie are enjoying a hayride with their daughter, Justice at the Nordic Ridge Pumpkin Patch.



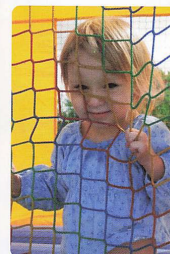
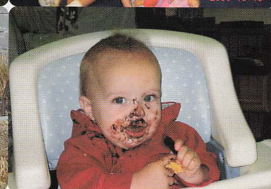
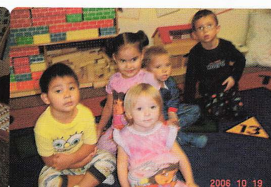
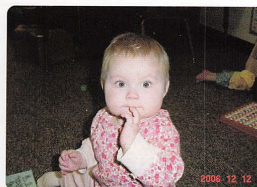
Danelle and her son, Quentin, visiting the Rice Camp at Dead Fish Lake.

*Ava Cavanaugh at the December FACE Group Night.

*Pajama Party in the FACE Classroom.

*Jordan, Jalen, Tristin, and Jacob at the Pumpkin Patch. Jordan, Tristin, and Jacob are part of the Early 5-3 FACE Program.

*Logan Kunze enjoying cookies.



Piper poses in the "Jumping Castle" at the FACE Open House.



Shela and her daughter, Kierra pose for a picture at PACT Time.



Halee Fosness and Kaliyah Houle are all smiles on the Pizza Train. Both girls are part of the Early 5 to 3rd grade FACE Program.



Racheal having a "dino" mile time trick or treating with FACE.



As a parent, you are your child's first teacher

Royalty 2004



Smokey and class, 2004



JOM Conference Committee.



Bobbie Kangas reading to students.





Marilu, Warren, Tara G., Tamara, Michelle, Sonia, Tara D.



Schoolwide Walk 2016



Canoe Races 2008



GIIGAAWAABAMIN

