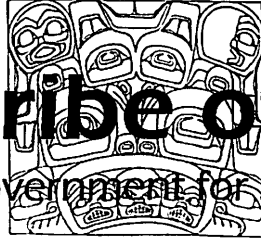


Sitka Tribe of Alaska

Tribal Government for Sitka, Alaska



February 2, 2022

Sitka School District School Board
Amy Morrison, President
300 Kostrometinoff St.
Sitka, Alaska 99835

Re: Sitka Tribe of Alaska Recommendation on the Renaming of Baranof Elementary School

Dear Sitka School District School Board,

At the January 6, 2021 Sitka School District (SSD) School Board meeting, you “formally request the Sitka Tribe of Alaska to help the Sitka School District choose a name of a significant local cultural educator to replace the current name of [Baranof Elementary School].” After this formal request, Sitka Tribe of Alaska (STA) Tribal Council referred the matter to the STA Cultural Resources Committee (CRC)¹ for discussion and advisement prior to Tribal Council’s final vote on October 20, 2021.

We are deeply honored and extremely happy to be able to present the SSD School Board with the recommendation of **Charlie Joseph Sr. Awdigaan Hít** for the new name of Baranof Elementary School.

As we submit STA’s recommended new name for Baranof Elementary School (BES), we would also like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you or *aatlein gunalchéesh* to the SSD School Board for taking action to change the name of BES from one that honors a man responsible for the colonization of our land and persecution of our people, to a name that honors a significant local cultural educator who played an outsized role in the founding of the Sitka Native Education Program and the revitalization of Tlingit language and culture throughout our region. Moreover, the name **Charlie Joseph Sr. Awdigaan Hít**² recognizes

¹ The STA committee comprised largely of knowledgeable elders and culture bearers who advise Tribal Council on matters related to naming

² Awdigaan Hit roughly translates as “house of sunshine”

the long-held Tlingit tradition of naming places for their characteristics and use and gives our community a new name for BES that so aptly describes what elementary school should be for all children – a place of sunshine and joy.

Sincerely,



Lawrence Widmark
Chairman