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## SECRETARY JEWELL ANNOUNCES CONGRESSIONAL FUNDING FOR NEW FACILITIES AT COVE DAY SCHOOL



Teachers, students and administrators at Cove Day School were given great news today by Secretary Sally Jewell that Congress has appropriated funds for them to receive a new facility as well as teacher housing.

COVE-U.S. Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell traveled to Red Valley, Arizona today to announce that Cove Day School would receive a new facility through funds appropriated by Congress.

Secretary Jewell today said that \$45 million has been appropriated to fund the final two Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) school construction projects identified in 2004 as having the greatest need for replacement. The other school to be reconstructed is the Little Singer Community School near Birdsprings, Arizona.

“The Cove Day School was on a list from 2004 but there was never enough funding provided to get to it,” she said. “This is what we hope will be a part of an ongoing process to do a better job of upholding our treaty obligations to tribes.”

The school was built in 1959 and although the outside might not look bad, the infrastructure is crumbling and the teacher housing is inadequate.

“The number of students attending the school has dropped significantly from it’s peak. So a new school building will help facilitate an environment conducive to learning.”

Vice President Jonathan Nez thanked Secretary Jewell for personally traveling to the Navajo Nation to announce the funding awarded for a new school and teacher housing. He said that both he and President Begaye view education as being key to empowering Navajo youth and communities.

Vice President Nez also thanked Dr. Charles 'Monty' Roessel, Director of BIE, who was in attendance at the day's event.

"Dr. Roessel provides an excellent example to the students of an educated Navajo who has worked hard to serve in the capacity he's gained as Director of BIE."

While observing a lesson in a 4th-6th grade classroom, Vice President Nez challenged the students to set their goals for higher education and to return back to better their communities.

"Maybe one day these students will serve as teachers or administrators here at the school they attended."

Of the seven chapters Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty represents in the Northern Agency, Red Valley and Cove are two that she said have faced many obstacles throughout the years.

"This is one of the communities that has been impacted immensely by uranium," she said. "We have been fighting for twelve years to get allocation from congress for this school."

Delegate Crotty said she appreciated Secretary Jewell and Vice President Nez's visit to Cove Day School as she felt it demonstrated federal and tribal leadership actively trying to rebuild and revitalize the community while also instilling hope.

"From here we are working on getting their internet broadband services up while also working on integrating mental and behavioral health programs so they can provide after school activities where students can be in a safe environment."

Before departing, Secretary Jewell made time to visit classrooms and participate in student lessons while also discussing with the students the importance of federal adherence to trust responsibilities in supporting Indian education issues.

Acting Principal for Cove Day School, Dr. Leo Johnson said today's announcement made both the community and the students excited and happy.

"Today is a day of celebration," he said. "Things will only get better from here at Cove Day School."

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