

SILETZ SCHOOL FIGHTING FOR THE FUTURE

BY: Teresa Miller

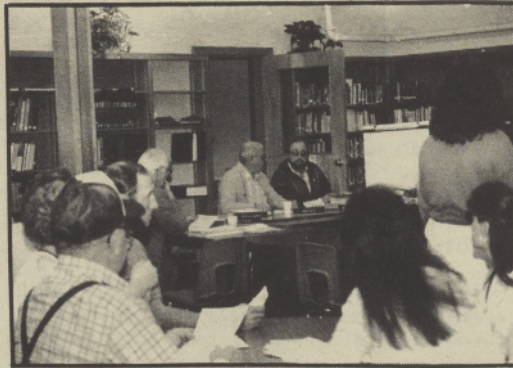
Siletz School has long been the focal point of the Siletz Community. Children grew and learned, became adults and as the years unfolded raised children of their own who in turn attended school where their parents had been educated. There was a feeling of continuity and extended family through the generations. The children shown on the front cover of today's paper were part of this continuing legacy.

In February of this year, information pertaining to the possible closure of the Siletz Middle School by the Lincoln County School District was brought to the attention of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz and the Siletz Community.

In 1983 Siletz High School was closed and the students moved to Toledo....all accomplished in a three month period with little advance warning to the Siletz Tribe or community and virtually no public input on the matter. This being the case, the news of the possible closure of the Middle School set off alarms in the community.

February 18, the Tribal Council passed resolution 90-69 opposing the closure of the Middle School and requesting that the Lincoln County School District provide a plan to accomplish reopening of the Siletz High School. Soon after, the City of Siletz passed a similar resolution and the Siletz Local School Committee concurred.

From that time, the community has pulled together as one, including Tribal Representatives, Parent Volunteers Support Group, the Siletz Local School



February 22, Building Facilities Improvement Committee Meeting



Meeting of February 22...

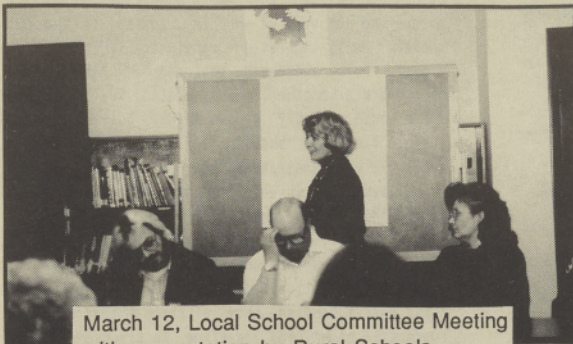


Committee, People Against Consolidation, City Council Representatives and other concerned citizens. They have attended meetings and work sessions in an attempt to develop a proposal to be presented to the Facilities Maintenance Improvement Committee (a body appointed by the Lincoln County School District Board of Directors) to implement the return of the High School to Siletz and retain the Middle School. They have compiled a 70 page bound report including cost projections, facility needs, enrollment projections, staffing needs, physical facility assessment, rational and justification, community impact and a Rural Education Program Study. The Education Program Study was prepared by the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory specifically in regard to the Siletz School.

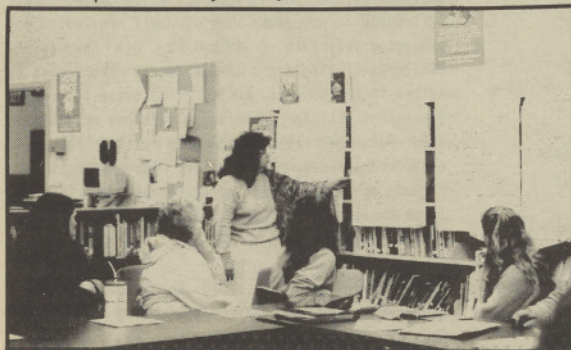
This report will be presented to the Facilities Maintenance Improvement Committee on March 28 and also to the Lincoln County School District Board of Directors at their April Meeting. Reaction to the study will not be known before this edition is printed.

Presently, the entire Siletz School building is being used to house the Elementary School and the Middle School. The closure in 1983 only involved the moving of the High School Students from one community to another. To accommodate the return of the High School students would involve minimal expense and expansion.

To make the return of the Siletz High School to the Siletz Community a reality and ensure the continued operation of the existing school, it is essential that the Tribal Membership lend its support in this effort.



March 12, Local School Committee Meeting with presentation by Rural Schools Specialist, Joyce Ley



Strategies in the making...



SILETZ HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM - 1941

Standing: Manager Rusty Frasier, Jack Nix, Joe Goodell, Jimmie Miller, Coach Dimit. Sitting: Larkie Logan, Bud Mattsen, Don Bellinger, Harding Simmons. Sitting in Front: Don Such.