



TNEC
Tribal Nations Education Committee

TRIBAL NATIONS EDUCATION COMMITTEE (TNEC)

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Date: January 18, 2024 | **Time:** 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM | **Location:** Virtual – Zoom | **Facilitator:** Chair Harper

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members	Tribal Nation, Community, or Area of Representation	Present	Absent
Vondalee Carr	Bois Forte Band of Chippewa		X
<i>*Leanne Hoffman</i>		X	
Tara Dupuis	Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa		X
<i>*Jennifer Murray</i>		X	
Maria Burnett	Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	X	
Laurie Harper, Chair	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	X	
<i>*Dorothy Robinson</i>			
Jesse Kodet	Lower Sioux Indian Community	X	
<i>*Jackie Probst</i>			
Niiyo Gonzales	Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	X	
<i>*Raina Killspotted</i>		X	
Billie Annette, Secretary	Minnesota Chippewa Tribe	X	
Paul Dressen	Prairie Island Indian Community	X	
Glenda Martin	Red Lake Nation		X
<i>*Annamarie Hill</i>			X
Dan Morgan	Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community	X	
<i>*Carrissa Pickit</i>			X
Carrie Trutna	Upper Sioux Indian Community		X
<i>*Roberta Bjerkeset</i>			X
Dana Goodwin	White Earth Nation	X	
<i>*Trista Ayers</i>			X
Vacant	Greater Minnesota		

Beth Tepper, Vice-Chair	Twin Cities Metropolitan Area	X	
Zhaawin Gonzales	Twin Cities Metropolitan Area		X

*Alternate

PUBLIC ATTENDEES

Name	Area/Organization
Dr. Jane Harstad	MDE, Director of American Indian Education
Sonya Borgeson-Bethke	MDE, Grant Specialist
Graham Hartley	MDE
Dennis Olson	MN Office of Higher Education, Commissioner
Shannon Geshick	MIAC, Executive Director
Yelena Bailey	PELSB, Executive Director
Emily Busta	PELSB
Debbie O'Dell	PELSB
Anjanette Parisien	Saint Paul Public Schools, Project Manager
Theresa Ziebarth	Community Member
Kip Perkins	St. Cloud Public Schools, American Indian Education

MEETING

Time	Item	Owner
10:06 AM	<p>Meeting Called to Order Committee Rollcall: Quorum met.</p>	Chair Harper
	<p>Approval of Agenda Motion made to approve agenda. Seconded. Motion carried.</p> <p>Approval of the Public Meeting Minutes from December 21, 2023: Motion to Approve. Seconded. Motion Carried.</p>	
10:30 AM	<p>Professional Educators Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB) Yelena Bailye was accompanied by the PELSB licensing and operation manager, Debbie O'Dell and licensing supervisor, Emily Busta.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yelena provided updates on differentiation in eminence credential licensing areas for American Indian languages and cultures. PELSB added new licensing areas: Dakot, language, history, and culture and Ojibwe language, history, and culture. Old licenses still exist. Going forward, PELSB will issue a specific license for the specific area, if asked or if the letter from the Tribal Nation specifies the area. 	Yelena Bailey, Executive Director

- Individuals who currently hold licenses can continue to renew them, but if they want to add a new specific license, they will need a tribal letter that indicates this.
- Requirements have not changed, and eminence grants or pathways remain the same.
- Letters must come from the Tribal Nation of enrollment.
- The committee notes that some letters from tribal nations may not specifically address the person's ability to teach the language, leading to confusion and potential roadblocks for licensure.
- Concern is expressed that requiring a new letter for language proficiency could create unnecessary barriers for teachers who already have a history and cultural license.
- It's offered that if you have a language, history, and cultural license, that was offered prior to the new areas, you do not have to add on an additional license. You continue to renew in the same way.
- Changes went into effect on January 1, 2024.

Q: How will the district know if someone is teaching a language or cultural course without the additional license?

A: Districts will report what is being taught but may not know if it's through a licensed oral language or the eminence credential.

American Indian history and culture renewal requirement

- PELS is trying to meet with each Tribal Nation to get input on the American Indian history and culture renewal requirement and have met with eight Nations thus far.
- They do not want to move forward with the draft process without full input.
- They have not yet met with Prairie Island, Mille Lacs or Upper Sioux.

Apprenticeships and Mentorships

Q: Can you fill the committee in on the apprenticeship program for teachers?

A: Two applicants in review. The Department of Labor and Industry and MDE are working on approved apprenticeships, but they don't have any approved yet.

- MDE is running approved residencies that could include the apprenticeship model, and there is an information session tomorrow afternoon for those interested.
- Regarding teacher mentorship, recipients should be announced soon. Data on numbers and demographics can be obtained and provided to the committee if needed.
- The PELS board approved a language change so that BIE schools are eligible for the teacher mentorship grant.
- The committee is encouraged to form an affinity group.

Teacher Diversity, Training, and Substitute Teacher Pilot Program

- The committee inquired about funding for teacher prep programs and data collection on teacher diversity.
- PELS reports on the demographic data for licensed teachers every October, including American Indian teachers, and encourage self-reporting to improve accuracy.
- Reports are published on the website.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee outreach on the importance of self-reporting would be appreciated. • Teacher prep goes into effect on July 1 and includes requirements around American Indian history and culture. • PELS is working with prep providers to include requirements around American Indian history and culture in their training programs, and will provide guidance to these providers for renewal requirements. • Regarding the substitute teacher pilot program, districts can hire substitute teachers with a high school diploma or GED, and they can work up to 20 consecutive days without switching. 	
<p>11:10 AM</p> <p>Minnesota Department of Education (MDE): Office of American Indian Education (OAIE)</p> <p>Dr. Harstad was accompanied by Sonia Borgeson-Bethke. Sonia is the grant writer for Language Revitalization.</p> <p>Special Education Data and State Identified American Indian Students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The OAIE received data specific to American Indian student and their disabilities, but the data is not broken down by district. • Regarding the committee’s prior ask for CEIS data on overrepresentation, Alex Mengabi (MDE) can provide this information, but the formula is complicated, and it will take some time for him to figure out how the overrepresentation works in accordance with federal guidelines. • The committee confirmed that they would like the data broken down by district. • Discipline and placement data is submitted each November. Adam Heuett (MDE) is finalizing this data for the committee. <p>Q: If your division requests data, do they provide it in a spreadsheet? Or is there a database that directors can access to run reports as needed?</p> <p>A: There are databases, but they have different owners and house different data. It depends on the division and the data type. Most often it is provided in an excel spreadsheet. I have access to some databases and not others.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee expressed concern about limited access to data and the need for tribal nations to have unfettered access to information. • Districts need to be reminded of what state statutes say. <p>Data Sharing: Districts and Tribal Nations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New legislation from last spring added Tribal Nations to the list of allowable entities that districts could share information with. • Dr. Harstad asked the committee if they were aware of any instances of Tribal people asking districts for information, and whether or not that information request was met. • In general, the committee found that some districts were aware of the change to legislation and others were not. • It’s not clear who at the district-level has access to the information needed to run reports and it’s not always obvious who the Data Access Coordinator (DAC) is. • MDE has a list of every authorized DAC, so MDE has the ability to run reports within their system, which could be helpful for the committee. <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Chair Harper will reach out to Michigan to see how their access works. ➤ Dr. Harstad will reach out to Adam Heuett. 	<p>Dr. Jane Harstad, Director</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The committee will devise an outline or something similar that specifically states what data they are seeking and how they would like it to be presented. ➤ Dr. Harstad will set up a meeting with the committee to discuss what the request to Adam should look like. ➤ Districts need a formal reminder of the state statute that allows information to be shared with Tribes. <p>Language Revitalization Grants and the Application Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A request for information was sent out that inquired about how much funding would be needed, what would the funding be used for etc. • 52 schools or districts responded. • Total estimated funding came to \$10.9M and we have \$7.5M per year. • Rolling applications would make this funding sustainable. • 60% of responding districts want to sustain or expand existing language programs. 52% currently offer Ojibwe, 12% currently offer Dakota, and 42% want to add a new language. • Considering different rounds of funding. • The division would like a dedicated grant manager for this program. • Pre-applications will continue to be accepted. • RFP should be out by March 1. <p>Q: Is the request for information required in order for a school to apply?</p> <p>A: We asked for a pre-application to gather information, with the possibility of awarding priority points to pre-applicants in the competitive grant process, once it opens.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General discussion on what MDE has seen from pre-applicants thus far, the competitive grant webpage updates. <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dr. Harstad will schedule a subcommittee meeting for 02/01 from 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM. <p>Other Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Madeline Blazer, Indigenous Education Specialist, starts in February. 	
<p>Minnesota Office of Higher Education (OHE)</p> <p>Data request from University of Phoenix and 9010 rule.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First known request from an out of state agency for Tribal data. • If anyone can share the full request that would be appreciated. • Theorizes that the query was related to 9010 rule compliance, which is part of the US DOE. 9010 clarifies what federal financial aid can be used for. • For for-profit entities, like University of Phoenix, no more than 90%. • 10% has to come from non-financial aid sources, and the clarification was around the GI Bill, which wasn't previously included. • The data request could be because they want more information about what tribal support for students looks like. 	<p>Dennis Olson, Commissioner</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General discussion surrounding the University of Phoenix, it's relationships, partnerships, programs, recruitment, transferrable credits, fines related to a lawsuit, and being cautious with what data is shared, if any. • University of Phoenix credits may not transfer to other institutions in Minnesota. • Concerns about sharing tribal data without proper understanding of its use. <p>Financial Aid and Emergency Assistance Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Olson updates the board on the new American Indian Scholars Program, including a centralized page with links to all five University of Minnesota campuses and a statement for students at Minnesota State campuses. • Commissioner Olson's team will present on the North Shore Promise program and American Indian scholars at the Minnesota State Board of Trustees meeting next week, with the goal of having a first-dollar waiver program like this and ensuring students take advantage of the opportunity. • Over \$900K in emergency assistance grants were awarded. • Direct appropriations to the University of Minnesota and Minnesota State College University system to support emergency assistance on those campuses. • Now able to support tribal colleges and private institutions as well. • Emergency assistance does not impact financial aid. • The committee expressed interest in receiving assistance with training staff on the FAFSA process. • Technical glitches with the FAFSA are present and that should be reported to the assistance line for FAFSA. • OHE has a series called Ready, Set, FAFSA for students. <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Commissioner Olson will have staff meet with TNEC to answer questions at their next meeting. ➤ Commissioner Olson will send the link to Ready, Set, FAFSA. 	
<p>Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information for the quarterly MIAC meetings is due two weeks prior to the meeting. • Information is sent out electronically in board packets. • TNEC's report should be sent to Opalina Peralta. • The 3rd Annual Dakota and Ojibwe Language Symposium is scheduled for February 28 – March 1 at Treasure Island Resort and Casino. The link to register is on the MIAC website. • MIAC is currently hiring a cultural resource manager, aligned to their mission of American Indian graves protection on public and private lands. • MIAC is hiring a legislative and policy director. <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Committee will share the postings. ➤ Chair will work with Kristen on the report to MIAC and potentially a slide deck. ➤ Shannon will contact Billie to let her know when the public presentations will take place. 	<p>Shannon Geshick, Executive Director</p>

<p>Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated attendees on new leadership. • Bylaws to be reviewed in February. • The addition of the Treasurer position. • Dan shared SMSC's new leadership. • Jennifer Murray contacted the strategic planner to see if she's available in July. <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Jennifer will email the strategic planners contract for review. ➤ Kristen will set up a meeting for 02/01 with the new executive team to discuss work priorities and activities. 	
<p><i>12:14 PM</i> Adjournment</p> <p>Motion made to adjourn. Seconded. Motion Carried.</p>	<p>Chair Harper</p>

NEXT OPEN MEETING: FEBRUARY 21, 2024

Submitted by: Kristen Aeikens | **Date:** February 15, 2024