

Tribal Nations Education Committee (TNEC)  
Minutes ~ Open Meeting  
May 18, 2023 ~ 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Host/Zoom Host: White Earth

TNEC: Jennifer Murray – Fond du Lac (TNEC Chair)  
Laurie Harper – Leech Lake  
Jackie Probst – Lower Sioux (virtual)  
Niiyo Gonzalez – Mille Lacs (virtual)  
Dan Morgan – Shakopee (virtual)  
Dana Goodwin Williams – White Earth  
Trista Ayers – White Earth (alternate)  
Billie Annette – MN Chippewa Tribe

MDE Guests: Dr. Jane Harstad, MDE OIE Director  
Sam Zimmerman, OIE Indigenous Specialist  
Anjanette Parisien, OIE Indigenous Specialist  
Michael Diedrich, ESEA Policy Specialist (virtual)  
Betsy Blackhawk, OIE Program Manager  
Isabella Griffin, AI Aid Program Manager  
Bobbie Burnham, MDE Academic Standards (virtual)  
Angela Mansfield, Assistant Commissioner (virtual)

PELSB: Yelena Bailey, Executive Director (virtual)  
Michelle Hersh Vaught, Rulemaking Specialist (virtual)

OHE: Lara Gerhardson, Minnesota Indian Scholarship Program  
Megan Fitzgibbon, State Financial Aid Manager

Other Guests: John Bobolink, SPPS IE Director  
Keenan Humphrey, LL Ed. Outreach Manager

- I. Jennifer called the meeting to order at 9:18 a.m.
  
- II. Dan moved to approve the agenda. Second by Laurie. Motion passed.

### III. Presenters:

- a. Michael Diedrich, MDE ESEA Policy Specialist:
  - Power point presentation.
  - Graduation data for the class of 2022.
  - MN Report Card.
  - See MDE Data Center on website (graduation files; spreadsheet with data.)
  - How many AI students in Special Ed, ALC, etc.? Why are AI students struggling, taking 5 years to graduate? ALC: who's referring, who's going, etc.? This data needs more targeted work; AI specific and work with OIE.
  
- b. Lara Gerhardson, Minnesota Indian Scholarship Program (MISP):
  - Working on 2022-2023 MISP report.
  - 904 students were awarded scholarships.
  - 1800 student contacts.
  - Compiling student responses.
  - Attended 70 college and career fairs/Q&A sessions.
  - Will share the report with TNEC when it's done.
  
- c. PELSB ~ Yelena Bailey and Michelle Hersh Vaught:
  - PELSB recently adopted changes to the AI Language, History and Culture licensure rule (Minn. R. 8710.4100) to more directly align the rule with state statute (Minn. Stat. 124D.72). Note: this went into effect April 2023. One of the new ways one can show they are qualified for this particular license is by "completing a course of study approved by the Board." PELSB has received a request to approve a course of study. PELSB would like to discuss with TNEC a possible process to evaluate the course of study.
  - Is there a rubric?
  - MIAC grants – maybe associated with this?
  - Vetting eminence credentials.
  - Supporting teachers; background checks, criminal issues, recruitment, retention, pay scales, equity, teachers test right after taking course, mentorship component, how to navigate intergenerational trauma, part of IE for All.
  - Develop guidance document from TNEC to PELSB. MDE/OIE will assist TNEC to develop the guidance document.

- d. Office of Higher Education ~ Megan Fitzgibbon for Commissioner Olson (who is presenting at MIAC):  
Some updates/highlights:
- Higher education bill passed both House and Senate and will go to Governor for signature and includes:
  - American Indian Scholars Program – AI tuition waiver program.
  - Tribal college funding.
  - Foster Independence Grant.
  - Note: a written report will be sent.
- e. Anjanette Parisien and Sam Zimmerman, MDE OIE Indigenous Specialists:
- Updates:
  - IEFA – working with MDE accounts payable to ensure timely processing of submitted IEFA invoices for payment to Tribal Nations. Invoices still need to be submitted 30 days prior to June 30, 2023.
  - Organizational meetings completed with Lower Sioux, RL, LL, WE, FDL and PIIC.
  - See written document/update for April 16 – May 18, 2023 that was emailed prior to this meeting.
- f. Dr. Jane Harstad, MDE OIE Director:
- Indigenous Education for All Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 120B.021, subdivision 4, as amended by Laws (passed, effective now.) Copy of document shared.
  - Discussed needs assessment. Develop timeline and list of folks to include. What questions to ask.
  - A needs assessment is to be conducted by December 31, 2023.
  - Connect with Native MN groups such as WASH?
  - Who's on the team at MDE?
  - Standards and benchmarks – Jane will send.
  - Mascots:
  - AI Mascots prohibited. 155.24 Sec.6. 121.A.041 (document shared.)
  - MDE working on a process for exemptions application. Needs TNEC input/review.
  - Schools will need to change by September 2025.
  - **TNEC will add Mascot exemption as a standing agenda item beginning June 2023 through February 2024.**
  - **Any letters requesting exemptions should be sent to Jen, Maria, Laurie and Billie. Scan and send them to Jane. If there are schools planning to change their mascot let MDE know this as well.**

- Indigenous Education Proposals for MN 2023 Legislative Session (document provided) – reviewed which passed.
  - #16 Tribal Nations Consulted on Revising Academic Standards Required. TNEC has 4 seats on the standards committee/s.

IV. Other Business:

- Note: Executive Director Shannon Geshick unable to attend; is facilitating MIAC.

V. Laurie motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Dana. Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.