

Tribal Nations Education Committee (TNEC)
Minutes ~ Open Meeting
June 22, 2023 ~ 10:00 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.
Zoom Host: White Earth

TNEC: Jennifer Murray – Fond du Lac (TNEC Chair)
Maria Burnett – Grand Portage (TNEC Vice Chair)
Vondalee Carr – Bois Forte
Leanne Hoffman – Bois Forte (alternate)
Jackie Probst – Lower Sioux
Paul Dressen – Prairie Island
Dana Goodwin Williams – White Earth
Trista Ayers – White Earth (alternate)
Beth Tepper – Twin Cities Metro
Billie Annette – MN Chippewa Tribe

MDE: Dr. Jane Harstad, OIE Director
Isabella Griffin, AI Education Aid Program Manager
Betsy Blackhawk, OIE Program Manager
Kimberly Brenden, OIE Administrative Support
Graham Hartley, Student Access & Opportunity
Anjanette Parisien, OIE Indigenous Specialist
Sam Zimmerman, OIE Indigenous Specialist
Melanie Franks, Tribal Liaison
Dan Torrez, Alt. & Preventative Services Specialist
Govinda Budrow, Positive Behavior Interventions & Support Consultant
Tyler Livingston, Educator Workforce Programs Supervisor
Leigh Nida, Div. Academic Standards, Instruction & Assessment
Dawn Cameron, Div. Academic Standards, Instruction & Assessment

MIAC: Opalina Peralta, Executive Assistant

SPPS: Superintendent Joe Gothard
School Board Chair Jim Vue
John Bobolink, IE Director
Kathleen Kiman, Staff
Julie Hutcheson-Downwind, Principal
Amy Suchon, Flipside Special Projects Coordinator
Carita Green Executive Director of College & Career Pathways
Jessica Kopp
Dana Abrams
Mai Vang
Sarah Dahlke
Deborah Campobasso

Nicole Other Medicine
Kara Arzamendia
Andrew Collins

Other Guests: Maria Asp, Speaking Out Collective/Dir. Of Community Outreach
Tessa Flynn Henerson, Speaking out Collective/Dir. of Programming
Lisa Clemens
Donna Patterson, Dream Catcher Projects
Jennifer Simon, MPLS IE Director

- I. Jennifer called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.m.
- II. Maria moved to approve the agenda. Second by Paul. Motion passed.
- III. Presenters:
 - a. SPPS Tribal Consultation:
 - Documents requested for the consultations were emailed from Carita Green on June 1, 2023 including the 21st Century CCLC Grant plan.
 - Superintendent, School Board Chair/Vice-Chair, AIPAC and other staff were present.
 - 1,078 (AI student count as of October 1, 2022.)
 - Using state identification in counting AI students.
 - Grad rate improved (relies on MDE for some data) – from 59% to 62%.
 - Tracking progress of students.
 - Intervention is assigned to connect with schools in tracking students. There is one staff member dedicated specifically to this.
 - Reading class at AIMs (literacy skills).
 - Flipside Program: there is an increased number of students. More information will be provided at the October meeting.
 - Check & Connect Program doesn't work for SPPS.
 - IE program could use additional 2-3 FTE for staffing.
 - **21st Century Grant Cohort 9 application needs affirmation form signed by June 29, 2023 (?)**
 - b. Dan Torrez, MDE (Special Education Division) Alternative & Preventative Services Specialist and Govinda Budrow, Project Consultant:
 - Power Point (PP) shared (Dan will provide/send copy to TNEC).
 - Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) update.
 - PBIS is in statute.
 - There is an AI work group – names included in PP.

- There is a PBIS Cultural Guide (see PP).
 - Are there any AI staff? – Unsure.
 - Meets with OIE consistently.
- c. Tyler Livingston, MDE Educator Workforce Programs Supervisor:
- MN Indian Teacher Training Program (MITTP) update:
 - Power Point shared.
 - Two new things: Funding stays (unused funds do not go back) offered grants are now for 5-year periods.
 - 4 grantees named in statute – 3 of the 4 have applied (the 4th – Bemidji is ready to apply.)
 - Tyler will send (grant apps) pdf to TNEC for review. **Review and comment by June 30th (?)**
 - Competitive grants – there have been 3.
 - With additional/new MITTP funds – consider increasing the number of grantees or increase the 92,000-funding cap?
 - Include MITTP on July meeting agenda.
 - Email any questions to Tyler and he will prepare answers and have them ready for the July TNEC meeting.
- d. Maria Asp, Director of Community Outreach & Education (*Reconsidering MN History Project*) and Tessa Flynn Henerson, Director of Programming. Organization representing: Speaking Out Collective.
- Would like to share about the Reconsidering MN History project.
 - Have been testing the stories with pre-K – 6th grade.
 - Will send links and videos/curriculum.
 - Would like TNEC feedback.
- e. Opalina Peralta for Shannon Geshick, MIAC Executive Director:
- MIAC update:
 - There is a small increase for language funding.
 - RFP will be coming out soon.
 - Next MIAC meeting is August 16-18 at PIIC.
 - Would like the TNEC report 2 weeks prior to the meeting.
- f. Anjanette Parisien & Sam Zimmerman, MDE OIE Indigenous Specialists:
- Summary report May 18 – June 22, 2023 discussed.
 - JPA: Bois Forte & White Earth are done. Grand Portage and Prairie Island are sending invoices.
 - Website updated.
 - The Commissioner gave crunch deadlines for questions and surveys.
 - AIEFA will be updated at the July retreat at MDE.

- g. Leigh Nida and Dawn Cameron, MDE Division of Academic Standards, Instruction, and Assessment:
- There are 3 upcoming working groups established by legislation (Computer Science, Ethnic Studies and Holocaust & Genocide of Indigenous) and TNEC representation is requested on these working groups. It would be a similar application process of standards review.
 - In the past it was determined that there would be 4 seats on standards committees reserved for TNEC members.
 - TNEC will again request volunteers from committee to volunteer and serve (and will get the names to Leigh and/or Dawn by September.)
 - **Note: Volunteers for these three committees will be added to the July TNEC meeting agenda.**
 - Dawn: Test development teams – requesting TNEC involvement.
 - There will be 45-60 meetings scheduled for mid-June through mid-August.
 - Test development – for standards that align to benchmarks.
 - Are there any questions about AI contributions now? Yes. How many? Do not have this information.
 - Dawn will send meeting dates.
 - Meetings are virtual.
 - There is compensation. \$160 per day.
- h. Dr. Jane Harstad, MDE OIE Director:
- Planning for July retreat scheduled July 18-21, 2023.
 - Will send hotels that are nearby.
 - Note: info was put into chat.
 - Jane will send a calendar invite.
 - Mascot:
 - Mascot letter went out yesterday with exemption request form (which is to be done by September 15, 2023.)
 - Tribal data sharing:
 - In the past agreements were created for those wanting access.
 - Now districts should share data with Federally recognized tribes regarding their students.
 - OIE can nudge districts with the statute.
 - TNEC questions for all MDE departments – as at the July retreat: **(1) How do you support AI students? (2) How do you support OIE?**
 - Other info shared:
 - Working on AI guidance document.
 - Working on how does OIE support parent committees in the best way possible.
 - Carryover of funds are now in statute – can carryover up to 50% of what is not spent – with PC, OIE in agreement and if the PC voted in

concurrence and the district shows sufficient reason why (and spent before December?)

- The end of the fiscal year is June 30th.
- At least one hour of school program must have observance to Indigenous Peoples Day.
- 172 districts will receive AI Education Aid.
- Superintendent's meeting is scheduled for August 8, 2023 at Marriott. TNEC members who plan to attend: Jackie, Jennifer and Beth.
- Nothing in legislation regarding smudging – students can carry loose tobacco/medicine pouch.

i. Lisa Clemens, Data Manager – Midwest Indigenous Immersion Network.

- Provides support and assistance to immersion schools.
- 2023 survey conducted regarding students receiving language instruction (copy of survey was emailed.)
- Response rate for the survey was 97% in Minnesota and 92% in Wisconsin.
- Want to recruit students who want to teach and find jobs after college.
- 2024 there will be a test track if they're in immersion education.
- Focus: (1) locate students, (2) find program and once graduated, (3) find positions.
- Data will be presented to tribes, MDE and the public.
- Website is Miinojibwe.org – email is ogimaabinesiikwe@minnojibwe.org
- Is invited and is willing to come and share updates with TNEC.

IV. Other Business:

- None.

V. Jackie moved to adjourn. Second by Beth. Motions passed. Meeting adjourns at 2:28 p.m.