

Tribal Nations Education Committee (TNEC)  
Minutes ~ Open Meeting  
August 17, 2023 ~ 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Host: Prairie Island

TNEC: Jennifer Murray – Fond du Lac (TNEC Chair)  
Maria Burnett – Grand Portage (TNEC Vice-Chair)  
Vondalee Carr – Bois Forte (virtual)  
Leanne Hoffman – Bois Forte alt. (virtual)  
Laurie Harper – Leech Lake (virtual)  
Jackie Probst – Lower Sioux (virtual)  
Jesse Kodet – Lower Sioux alt. (virtual)  
Niiyo Gonzalez – Mille Lacs (virtual)  
Raina Killspotted – Mille Lacs alt. (virtual)  
Paul Dressen – Prairie Island  
Annamarie Hill – Red Lake alt.  
Dan Morgan – Shakopee (virtual)  
Carrissa Pickit – Shakopee alt. (virtual)  
Dana Goodwin Williams – White Earth  
Trista Ayers – White Earth alt.  
Edye Washington – Greater MN (virtual)  
Billie Annette – MN Chippewa Tribe

MDE: Betsy Blackhawk, OIE Program Manager  
Isabella Griffen, AI Education Aid Program Manager  
Kimberly Brenden, OIE Administrative Support  
Graham Hartley, Student Access and Support  
Sam Zimmerman, Indigenous Specialist

PELSB: Michelle Hersh Vaught, Chief of Staff  
Yelena Bailey, Executive Director  
Anke Al-bataineh (Concordia College/Pathway for Teachers)

ELC: Peter Smerud, Exec. Dir. Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center (ELC)  
Colleen Foehrenbacher, Exec. Dir. Eagle Bluff (ELC)  
Jennifer Ehlen-Niemi (virtual)  
Gay Rawson (virtual)  
Dave McMillan (virtual)

Guest: Keenan Humphrey

- I. Jennifer called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

II. Paul moved to approve the agenda. Second by Maria. Motion passed. Note: There will be a break when the TNEC report is up on the MIAC agenda.

III. Presenters:

- a. Yelena Bailey, PELSB Executive Director and Michelle Hersh Vaught, Chief of Staff:
  - Provided handouts about AI Language, History, and Culture License (frequently asked questions), and AI Language, History, and Culture License (discussion questions for TNEC), and statute 8710.4100 Teachers of American Indian Language, History and Culture.
  - Work to not only to preserve our language but perpetuate.
  - Asking about tribal resolutions for teachers needing one.
  - Do tribes need/want to develop a process/network that informs all Tribal Nations when there is a request for tribal resolutions?
  - Recommendation PELSB meet regularly with TNEC. (Add PELSB to September meeting agenda.)
  
- b. Peter Smerud, Executive Director, Wolf Ridge ELC (virtual), Colleen Foeurenbacher, Executive Director, Eagle Bluff ELC (virtual), Jennifer Ehlen-Niemi, St. Scholastica (virtual), Gay Rawson (virtual), Dave McMillan (virtual):
  - Power point presentation (will share/send.)
  - Outdoor schools of Minnesota. Outdoor immersion for all.
  - Language component – Ojibwe language has been introduced.
  - Handouts/brochures presented/provided.
  
- c. OHE Commissioner Dennis Olson – unable to attend – will send a written update.
  
- d. Sam Zimmerman, MDE OIE Indigenous Specialist under Academic Standards, Instruction, and Assessment:  
Written report presented.
  
- e. Dr. Jane Harstad, MDE OIE Director (on vacation) Isabella and Betsy provided an update.
  - AIPAC info sharing.
  - Who should be prioritized in doing outreach (ex. Schools/districts having difficulty with plans. Some suggestions of those needing help were provided.
  - OIE held table talk at superintendents meeting, presented on legislation and AI Aid program guidance document.
  - Assessment data will be released to the public on August 24<sup>th</sup>.

- January 11-12, 2024 is the date for MN School Boards meeting (Jen & Laurie will present.)

IV. Other Business:

- Graham asked if TNEC would want to establish a subcommittee to review and update the tribal consultation affirmation document. (Maria, Jackie and Billie volunteered to serve on this committee.)
- MREA conference is November 13, 2023 at Cragun's Resort (Brainerd) from 5-7 p.m. TNEC is invited to host an informational booth. (Maybe Annamarie with LL?)
- September 19-22, 2023 TNEC meeting will be at Lower Sioux. Jesse has set up a block of rooms.
- Language & Revitalization Grants. 7.5 million per year for 2 years. TNEC subcommittee for this will be Laurie, Edye, Jackie, and Niiyo.

V. Dana moved to adjourn. Second by Maria. Meeting adjourns at 3:04 p.m.