

Tribal Nations Education Committee (TNEC)

April 15, 2021

Meeting Minutes approved May 20, 2021

Zoom Host: Bois Forte

TNEC Members: Jennifer Murray – Fond du Lac (TNEC Chair)
Maria Burnett – Grand Portage (TNEC Vice-Chair)
Travis Vake – Bois Forte
Leanne Hoffman – Bois Fort (Alternate)
Dorothy Robinson – Leech Lake (Alternate)
Jackie Probst – Lower Sioux
Jesse Kodet – Lower Sioux (Alternate)
Beth Tepper – Shakopee
Ron Buckanaga – White Earth
Dana Goodwin – White Earth (Alternate)
Baabijaw Boyd – Mille Lacs
Paul Dressen – Prairie Island
Carrie Trutna – Upper Sioux
Billie Annette – Minnesota Chippewa Tribe
David Isham – Twin Cities Metro
Edye Washington – Greater Minnesota
Brook LaFloe – Twin Cities Metro

MDE OIE: Dr. Jane Harstad, Director
Kristen Aeikens, American Indian Program Coordinator
Sara George, ESA/ESSA Title I part A Program Specialist

OHE: Commissioner Dennis Olson

Guest: Laura Duffey, MN DNR, Forestry

- I. Meeting called to order at 10:03 a.m.
- II. Prayer – Dr. Jane Harstad.
- III. Rollcall – a quorum was present.
- IV. Approval of Agenda: Motion by Ron to approve. Second by David. Motion passed.
- V. Approval of March 18, 2021 Minutes: Motion by Ron to approve. Second by Maria. Motion passed.
- VI. Old Business:
 - a. Curriculum. No updates.

- b. Website. No updates.
- c. Other Old Business:
 - Letter of support to SPPS re initiative to change name of Ramsey Middle School. Brook drafted a letter. Approved and Jennifer will sign.
 - Status of tribal consultation affirmations? Will be part of OIE report later in the agenda. Note: All TNEC metro school in compliance.

VII. New Business:

- a. Guest: Laura Duffey, MN DNR presentation (regarding environmental education lessons to which indigenous content has been added.)
 - Project Learning Tree – goal is to promote forestry education while addressing academic standards pertaining to indigenous knowledge.
 - Documents were emailed to TNEC – lessons/curriculum and how they fit into science standards.
 - Would like to make lessons free on the website (for all; could serve as a resource for teachers.)
 - TNEC recommended she reach out to all tribal nations first, so their experts can review the content. (Laura will reach out to the tribes.)
 - One concern brought forward was author Sherman Alexie included on the listing of recommended resources.
- b. Commissioner Olson – Office of Higher Education update:
 - Legislative update for OHE: Omnibus bill made it through both Senate and House Committees.
 - Passed Senate – on House floor Monday.
 - MISP – same language in both bills.
 - MISP – will add “members/citizens” in addition to the ¼ blood quantum criteria. (This may allow for descendants to be eligible for the scholarship.)
 - Expanding to include funding for summer terms.
 - Dennis will keep TNEC updated.
 - See visual flyer Dennis emailed re path to higher education listening sessions.
- c. Dr. Jane Harstad – MDE OIE update:
 - Shared situation regarding an experience someone had when taking test. The test taker was asked to do inappropriate things prior to taking the test. TNEC advocates for another way to take the tests. TNEC recommended PELSB be made aware as well as Commissioner Mueller be made aware of this occurrence. TNEC would like to meet again with PELSB.
 - Indian Education Program Plan – indigenizing the plan. Making sure AI students are getting cultural and academic needs met and following statute.
 - Draft of AI Education Aid application will be emailed to TNEC members for feedback. (Applications are due 10/1/21.)
 - PP of federal COVID funding.
 - Email from Clair Geddes to TNEC requesting feedback. Need to respond or AI will/may be left out.

- Should there be tribal consultation with COVID funding? Yes!
- Respond to Clair's email with feedback that includes there should be tribal consultation with Tribal Nations and using these funds to better academic achievement of AI students.
- Jane sent letter from Bois Forte for Title audit of IE funds. OIE received and acknowledged this will be done.
- Legislative update: House bill with Indigenous Education for all was voted down in Senate. Home schooler don't have knowledge to teach. Accountability pieces. Schools with World's Best Workforce report to MDE. Some don't like the language where if they don't do what they're supposed to do, they will be referred to the MN Department of Human Rights. The question is will we compromise and leave out the referral to MN Department of Human Rights? Yes – by not stating it in language doesn't mean the Department of Human Rights can't still be contacted.
- Send individual letters to Senate (from tribes) of support for Indigenous Education for All.
 - ESSA consultation discussion:
- Went over each metro school district tribal consultation notes. Affirmations to be signed and sent to districts?
- Break the cycle of Indigenous mis-education or non-education.
- TNEC Metro Reps David and Brook will be meeting with SPPS regarding tribal consultation.

d. Other New Business:

- Travis shared that the next tribal consultation with St. Louis County schools is May 3, 2021 and invites TNEC to participate.
 - Other consultation discussion:
 - ~ Grand Rapids had an August 2020 consultation. Dorothy will share notes. (Grand Rapids to consult with FDL and BF too?)
 - ~ Bemidji District – no affirmation. White Earth didn't have a consultation. Did Leech Lake or Red Lake?
 - ~ BRIC – consult with Bemidji? BRIC does not receive a Title I grant.
 - ~ Edye had a question re all the Title grants – is not made award of all the grants except Title VI.
 - ~ Sara shared that Title I, II, III and IV part A are all due September 1st. All formula grants.
 - ~ Jane shared there's a new requirement on Title IV for tribal consultation.
 - ~ Should TNEC sign off on all – not just Title VI and Title IV?
 - ~ Title IV B is a competitive grant (Community & School Century Grant) and there should be consultation.
 - ~ Jane asks if TNEC would like Title IV part B folks offer presentation to explain the requirements? Some were interested.
- Dr. Jon Peterson submitted agenda request form for the May 20th meeting. Add to agenda.

- Billie shared MDE Gifted and Talented Committee is looking for members and offered to bring to TNEC to see if there is an interest to serve. (Director is Wendy Behrens.)
- MDE Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Center update: Director has been hired.
- David shared:
 - MN State hiring/posting Vice-Chancellor in Diversity and Equity Position.
 - Twin Cities post-secondary graduation honoring ceremony is scheduled to be held virtually April 29th and TNEC is invited to register to attend.
- Sara shared she will be leaving MDE in June. TNEC members thanked her for all her assistance and advocacy.

VIII. Next Meeting Date is May 20, 2021.

IX. Adjournment: Ron motioned to adjourn. Second by Dorothy. Meeting adjourns at approximately 2:22 p.m.