

Tribal Nations Education Committee
Minutes approved September 17, 2021
August 19, 2021
Zoom Host: Bois Forte

Attendees: Jennifer Murray – Fond du Lac (TNEC Chair)
Maria Burnett – Grand Portage (TNEC Vice-Chair)
Travis Vake – Bois Forte
Laurie Harper – Leech Lake
Dorothy Robinson – Leech Lake (Alt.)
Jackie Probst – Lower Sioux
Baabiitaw Boyd – Mille Lacs
Beth Tepper – Shakopee
Dana Goodwin – White Earth
Billie Annette – Minnesota Chippewa Tribe
David Isham – Twin Cities Metro
Brook LaFloe – Twin Cities Metro

MDE: Heather Mueller, Commissioner Heather Mueller
Jane Harstad, Director Office of Indian Education
Kristen Aikens, American Indian Education Program Coordinator
Doug Paulson, Asst. Director of Academic Standards, Instruction & Assessment
Shana Morse, Asst. Director of Government Relations
Bobbie Burnham, Deputy Commissioner
Megan Arriola, Legislative Coordinator
Adosh Unni, Director of Government Relations
Feliz Yargici

MIAC: Shannon Geshick, Executive Director

OHE: Dennis Olson, Commissioner

Guests: Dr. Jon Peterson
Dr. Vicente Diaz

- I. Jen called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.
- II. Prayer was given by Tara Dupuis.
- III. Rollcall. A quorum was present.
- IV. David moved to approve the agenda with additions. Second by Brook. Motioned passed.
- V. Maria moved to approve the July 15, 2021 minutes. Second by David. Motion passed.
- VI. Old Business:
 - a. Curriculum/Indian Education for All:

- 2 new full-time positions – one will be in with academic standards and one with OIE. Job descriptions are being developed with Jane’s input. TNEC will be asked for input (for job duties, curriculum written – input from tribes.)
- Once social studies are implemented – will there be a link to IE for All?
- Don’t know where it will rest – OIE, Standards?
- How will resources be used? Concern resources will again just sit on a shelf.
- Beth requested Jane be included.
- What would it take for IE for All to be a requirement to graduate?
- In legislation – did not pass. It will take a legislative fix.
- How will MDE correct the misunderstanding of CRT.
- Decision was made to remove examples to support the standards; but examples will be returned later.
- TNEC requests to know what anchor standards were removed – there were three.

b. Website: no updates.

c. Other old business: none.

VII. New Business:

a. Presentation by Commissioner Heather Mueller:

- Legislative update power point presentation.
- Set up meeting September 14th via zoom to meet with Commissioner and discuss how to align MDE and TNEC strategic plans. Jen will send meeting details.

b. Discussion with Dr. Jon Peterson and Dr. Vicente Diaz regarding student identification.

- There are 800 reported Pacific Island students in the state. How are they doing and how can they be supported.
- Should they be included/counted with AI students? (Question to TNEC – which is the impetus for reaching out – to ask them.)
- Dr. Peterson and Dr. Diaz shared information and different ways to proceed.
- Agreement that conversations will continue.
- Dr. Diaz invited TNEC to an event on September 16th to an art show at the Northrup.

c. Presentation by Doug Paulson and Bobbie Burnham:

- Re academic standards:
- There are meetings scheduled for the next 5 weeks.
- 20,000 feedback pieces from public comment.
- 2nd draft – examples were removed to focus on the standards and benchmarks. But they will be brought back as support for implementation in the final draft.
- What can TNEC do to move standards and benchmarks forward? Draft letter to the Commissioner. Send emails to Doug – they are part of public record.
- Meeting/conversation with TNEC will continue – they’ve submitted another agenda request for the September meeting.

d. OHE Update – Commissioner Olson:

- Dennis emailed materials/legislative summary to TNEC for review.
- Requests support and ideas from TNEC.

- Is looking forward to new position paper and strategic plan. He said he would be available to be contacted during the strategic planning for his input.
 - Will send follow-up email about the “Kids in Need Program” – provides free school supplies, sanitizer, wipes, etc.
- e. MIAC Update – Executive Director Shannon Geshick:
- MIAC created position that will work with TNEC.
 - Met with Doug and Bobbie re social studies standards and consultations.
 - Monday is the non-public MIAC meeting – TNEC is on the agenda at 9:35 a.m. for approximately 30 minutes. Presenters are asked to join shortly before they are scheduled and log off when their presentation is done.
- f. OIE Update – Jane Harstad:
- New AI Education Aid Guidance and Application were emailed to TNEC.
 - A webinar was held with Superintendent’s was held about guidance and application documents.
 - Audit of 2142 is proceeding. Jane a productive meeting with the district about tribal consultation.
 - Feliz talked about a meeting in MPLS re social studies and asked if any TNEC members would be available to attend.
 - Tribal State Relation Training for districts: how to do this, cost, who pays?
 - MDE putting together a report re disparities at districts.
 - TNEC needs to send a written request for list of schools with over-representation of AI students in special education.
 - 37 schools need to have tribal consultation.
 - 2 new districts are Kelliher and Rock Ridge. (Contact TNEC rep Glenda Martin for Kelliher.) Rock Ridge (formerly Virginia and Eveleth consult with Bois Forte?) Jane will check if Park Rapids and Northland schools are required to consult.
 - MDE is moving forward to second round of interviews for the Tribal Liaison position. There are 3 TNEC members on the interview panel.
- g. Other New Business:
- Draft schedule for October tribal consultations for metro schools was reviewed and approved. Billie will email schedule to superintendents.
 - Reviewed Proposal for TNEC strategic planning.
 - **Brook moved to approve the proposal for TNEC strategic planning. Second by Laurie. Motion passed.**
 - Reviewed TNEC proposed budget.
 - MDE funding for TNEC. Discussion: “PT Bids” change to “Professional Development.” Executive Assistant salary – salary, fringe, health benefits – leave the \$90,000 as budgeted. TNEC retains the right to change the budget as needed.
 - **Laurie moved to approve TNEC budget. Second by Beth. Motion passed.**
 - Discussion on TNEC presentation August 23rd to MIAC. (Jen, Maria, Laurie and Beth will make the presentation. Other TNEC members who have indicated they will be in attendance are Travis, Billie and Dana.)

- VIII. Next Meeting Date will be Friday September 17th at Black Bear following 2 day Strategic Planning event. This is a change from previously scheduled date. Billie will contact those who've submitted agenda request forms for the previous date to see if they still want to present or reschedule for the October meeting.
- IX. Meeting adjourns at approximately 3:22 p.m.