

Tribal Nations Education Committee (TNEC)
Draft Minutes
December 16, 2021
Zoom Host: Bois Forte

PARTICIPANTS

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

GUESTS: Commissioner Dennis Olson, OHE
Shannon Geshick, MIAC Executive Director
Dr. Jane Harstad, Director MDE OIE
Deputy Commissioner Stephanie Burrage, MDE
Tom Delaney, MDE Supervisor, Interagency Partnerships
Robin Widley, MDE Special Education Director
Michael Diedrich, ESEA Policy Specialist
Teresa Taylor, MDE Director of Student Access & Opportunity
Daron Korte, MDE Assistant Commissioner
Dan Torrez, MDE Alternative & Preventative Services Specialist
Kris Van Amber, MDE MN Mgmt. & Budget
Stephanie Graff, MDE Assistant Commissioner
Kristen Aeikens, MDE OIE

- I. Jennifer called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.
- II. Prayer was given by Billie.
- III. Rollcall: A quorum was present.
- IV. Approval of Agenda: Motion by Maria to approve. Second by David. LL Silent. Motion passed.
- V. Approval of November 18, 2021 minutes. Motion by Beth to approve. Second by Travis. Motion passed.

VI. Old Business:

a. Curriculum/Indian Education for All (Jane):

- RFP will be sent out this week.
 - MDE OIE is looking for individuals and/or organizations.
 - A letter of recommendation from TNEC will be needed – letter of support is part of the process.
 - Webinar on how to apply will be available.
 - Suggests TNEC review proposals. Can MDE share RFP with TNEC? No. Is there a reason it can't be shared? The process follows the MMB process.
 - When individual/organization requests letter of support TNEC would want to know what the proposal entails.
 - Jane and Lucy will review initial apps and pass on to TNEC for review.
 - When does request close? Jane will let TNEC know.
 - Should TNEC come up with criteria for how to support curriculum writing? TNEC will discuss/develop at the January 19, 2022 meeting.

b. Other Old Business:

- Subcommittee Strategic Plan Updates:
 - OLA – Laurie is point of contact. Has any TNEC members spoken to this group? Input requested from more TNEC members.
 - Jen hasn't received responses for the Executive Assistant job description. She will resend it.
 - Jen working with Paul on TNEC budget – PIIC is the fiscal agent.

VII. New Business:

a. Tom Delaney, MDE Special Education:

- PP presentation was sent a few days prior to meeting.
- Focus on graduation rate for AI students with disabilities.
- Would like ongoing relationship with TNEC; learn what is working or what will work.
- How are IHSL being utilized?
- Dream Catcher program?
- Elizabeth Watkins who has worked with the program is retiring in January.
- Who audits IEP's from MDE? This is within the division of Assistance and Compliance. Tom will come back and share.
- Need more focus on IEPs.
- MDE has cross agency work group focused on AI students and IEPs.
- TNEC recommendation to see monitoring support happen more frequently for AI students that is similar to the support for BIE schools.
- How do IEPs promote curriculum with cultural relevancy – to better serve special education AI students?
- Do EBD students qualify for GT? EBD does not disqualify if student is identified as GT.

- What training is provided to teachers? Tribal State Relations Training. Tom will send list of trainings.
- Missing – how poverty impacts AI special education students.
- Disability or disadvantage?
- Discussion about graduation rate (page 9 of power point) – increased/trend is moving up (6 year graduation rate for AI students with disabilities.)
- Questions about data: What is it showing; not showing? How is discipline data comparing with this? There is over representation of AI for discipline infractions.
- Are there differences of graduation requirements? Pathways to graduation – there is one high school diploma for everyone.
- What is tracking for AI special education students? Daron will follow-up.
- Special Education discussion will continue – will be added to January TNEC agenda.

b. Michael Diedrich, MDE ESEA Policy Specialist:

- Follow up from last meeting with changes on state plan – accountability:
 - Shift to using state definition of American Indian (starting 2022-23).
 - What would it take to go back to 2018 to change numbers from federal to state? IT concerns. Michael will go back and check.
 - Key questions about the shift: what are thoughts about the shift to adopt state definition of AI for school and district accountability beginning 2022-2023 school year, 1st year of use accountability indicator calculating 2022-23, 1st year of use for identifying combined data for 22-23, 23-24 & 24-25.
 - Power Point presentation provided.
 - Data sharing – Michael would like to participate.

c. Commissioner Olson – had to leave earlier for another meeting.

d. Executive Director Shannon Geshick, MIAC:

The next MIAC meeting is March 1st.

- Written reports are requested 10 days ahead of the meeting.
- January 6, 2022 – beginning at 10:15 a.m. – is the MIAC/MDE partnership meeting and TNEC will be invited.
- Increased AI Teachers and Teachers of Color – letter of support will again be requested from TNEC.

e. Dr. Jane Harstad, MDE OIE Director:

- IE Aid program plans updates (PP). 175 potential/eligible applicants. 160 plans/apps received.
- One of the schools had a question if a work study element would be acceptable. Jane will find out more info. Question – would the school contribute funding towards it in addition AI aid?

- Another question was about AI aid paying for activity passes for attendance at high school activities/extra-curricular activities such as sports, musicals, dances, etc. as well as student fees, supplies and winter clothing.
- Future AI Aid initiatives/issues: OIE providing webinar (maybe at MIEA), IE Aid paying for school resource officer (Safe School dollars should pay this), how to use data to set goals, creating positive self-image without going overboard, where to get data for AI students, schools personal learning plans, how to clearly align budget portion with narrative portion of the plans, what is tribal sign-off for those who don't show in plans (AIPC),
- OIE worked with Wilder Foundation re AI Aid – they have approved another project and is asking for letter of support from TNEC. Jane will send a template they/Wilder provided.
- OIE recommended 4 districts (Browns Valley, Anoka-Hennepin, Onamia and Rosemount/Apple Valley/Eagan. (Would like TNEC to recommend 2.) One recommendation from TNEC member is North St. Paul.
- Brook motioned to provide letter of support with TNEC recommendations. Beth seconds motion. Motion passed.
- OIE Staffing: MDE is moving forward with the Tribal Liaison position – interviews continue. The administrative position is being re-posted to reflect it is a permanent, classified position. Posted Indigenous education position.
- MITTP grant is now open.
- TNEC reps for standards review committee – 4 spots for TNEC. Math standards co-chair needed. Reps will need to commit to all meetings. Do not have to be content experts. Looking for math resources.

f. Legislative Update – none.

g. Other New Business:

Marie updated on PELSB:

- Marie PELSB update – Recruiting AI and teachers of color, licensing and tests – shouldn't have to keep paying for the test, discussion having teachers from Central and South American getting their degrees equitable. (More discussion on this during the January meeting.)
- Next TNEC meeting will be held virtually via Zoom (not in person.)
- Jane will be invited to both open and closed TNEC meetings unless TNEC determines otherwise.

VIII. Adjournment: Laurie moved to adjourn. Second by Brook. Meeting adjourns at 2:38 p.m.