

Tribal Nations Education Committee (TNEC)  
Draft Minutes  
February 18, 2021 ~ 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
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 Forte (Alternate)  
Laurie Harper – Leech Lake  
Dorothy Robinson – Leech Lake (Alternate)  
Jackie Probst – Lower Sioux  
Jesse Kodet – Lower Sioux (Alternate)  
Baabiiaw Boyd – Mille Lacs  
Paul Dressen – Prairie Island  
Anna Marie Hill-Gutch – Red Lake (for Glenda Martin)  
Beth Tepper – Shakopee  
Carrie Trutna – Upper Sioux  
Ron Buckanaga – White Earth  
Dana Goodwin – White Earth (Alternate)  
Billie Annette – MN Chippewa Tribe  
David Isham – Twin Cities Metro  
Brook LaFloe – Twin Cities Metro

MDE: Dr. Jane Harstad, Director – Office of Indian Education (OIE)  
Kristen Aiekens, American Indian Program Coordinator (OIE)  
Sara George, ESA/ESSA Title I part A Program Specialist

OHE: Commissioner Dennis Olson, Office of Higher Education

Guests: Shana Morse, Assistant Director of Government Relations (MDE)  
Heather Mueller, Deputy Commissioner (MDE)  
Commissioner Mary Catherine Ricker, MN Department of Education

- I. Meeting called to order at 10:06 a.m. by TNEC Chair Jennifer Murray.
- II. Rollcall – a quorum was present.
- III. Approval of Agenda. Motion by Laurie to approve the agenda with addition of legislative update. Second by Ron. Motion passed.

IV. Approval of January 21, 2021 minutes. Maria moved to approve the minutes. Second by Travis. Motion passed.

V. Old Business:

a. Curriculum – no updates.

b. Website – Dana will add Baabiiyaw to the TNEC membership listing.

c. Other Old Business:

- Prayer will be added to future TNEC agendas (after meeting is called to order/before roll call.) Laurie volunteered to offer the prayer for the March meeting.
- Jane requested clarification for TNEC membership listing that Baabiiyaw is the primary TNEC representative and Byron Ninham is back-up.

VI. New Business:

a. MDE Commissioner Ricker, Deputy Commissioner Mueller:

- See Indigenous Proposals for 2021 Legislative Session (emailed to TNEC 2/16/21.) Categories: Budget Proposals include: Indigenous Education for All, Tribal Nations Consulted on Revising Academic Standards Required, Tribal Early Learning Package, Tribal Head Start Allocation Set Aside, AI Education Aid Extended to Joint Powers, Clarifying the Intended Recipients of AI Education Aid, Data Analytics for State Count of AI Students, MITTP Eligible Expenses Expanded and Tribal Relations Training for School Leaders. Policy Proposals include: Technical Assistance for Annual Report, State Count Used to Determine ai Education Aid, Tribal Nation Access to Student Data, eliminate "Supplemental" from AI Instruction Statutes, AI Mascots, AI Parent Advisory Committee Clarification, AI Parent Advisory Membership, Director of AI Education, Objects of Cultural Significance at Graduation and Teachers of Color and Indigenous Teachers Report and Statewide Goal.
- If there is misuse of AI funds, there is a finance team to assist.
- Make sure education plans are uploaded quickly.
- Accountability of funds; audit will hold accountable.
- Education plans should be clear.
- Director of Education definition – separate Director from Tribal Liaison position?
- Organizational Chart?

- Open position with Guthrie gone.
  - Laying roots across agency – so OIE is supported by every division.
  - Indian Action Team in place.
- b. Office of Higher Education (OHE), Commissioner Dennis Olson
- Dennis will send 1-2 page info to TNEC including:
    - Covid 19 response budget.
    - HE – recommend funding level for the umbrella.
    - New – Workforce Stabilization Program – scholarship grant program; includes opportunities for disrupted workers.
    - Dennis will email more details.
    - Emergency Grant Program – sent out to schools and administrators. Grant addresses emergencies such as food, rent, car repair, etc.
    - Academic enrichment programs.
    - Summer learning response proposal.
    - MN State Grant – proposed small increase.
    - Maintenance investment – so no decrease in budgets, grants – want stable and predictable funding.
    - Teachers Candidate Grants – boost funding – support student teachers while student teaching.
    - Letters to students – helping them walk through the program.
    - MN Post-secondary Childcare Program – more stream-lined.
    - MISIP – summer funding, citizens of 1<sup>st</sup> Nations.
- c. MIAC ~ Shannon Geshick, Executive Director:
- Miigwech to TNEC for the letter of support for Teachers of Color.
  - MIAC received letter from TNEC responding to the Urdahl letter to MDE Commissioner regarding the Social Studies Standards (draft one.) MIAC had conversation about the letter.
  - Maria mentioned HF 351 – suspend academic standards until 2022.
  - A House bill may not have continued.
  - SF companion bill 438.
  - Academic standards not suspended – slowed down for more time to review.
  - Beth will look for letter from executive team and forward to TNEC.
  - Rep. Keeler is new to MIAC board.
  - Sen. Kunesh very interested in education bills. (Sen. Kunesh may join this meeting if she has time – if so, TNEC will make time available for her on the agenda.)
  - Pay attention to authors of House and Senate bills.
  - Beth asked Doug Paulson to keep an eye on bills.
- d. MDE OIE Update ~ Dr. Jane Harstad, Director
- Updating AI guidance.

- Building accountability into plans (before and not afterward.)
  - Other indigenous folks on state count: Alaskans and Hawaiians said yes; Pacific Islanders said no – wouldn't want to speak for other islanders – too many. They would like to have a conversation with TNEC one day.
  - Tribal Consultations are set up. Funding in budget for TNEC (hire people to keep track of paperwork?) There is a checklist of questions. Let Sara know if TNEC wants anything from her about consultations.
- e. Legislative Update
- See MDE & OHE presentations.
  - Baabiihaw shared there is movement regarding head start set-aside (10.72%)
  - Legislation is moving forward (Jane.)
- f. Other New Business:
- In regard to Social Studies Academic Standards Committee – Beth shared Doug Paulson gave the group an update:
    - Looking for facilitator in response to Urdahl letter.
    - A letter will be coming from executive committee. Question – who is the executive committee? Jane is on this team along with the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, HR person, etc. The letter will be shared with the Social Studies Committee and Beth will share with TNEC.
    - MIAC will be looking for Urdahl clarification in regard to the letter. (Jen asked for recording of what he said.) Urdahl is insisting he has reached out to visit reservation schools. Jen said FDL did invite but didn't receive a response.
    - It is important to have focused discussion on legislative issues on TNEC agenda.
    - Updating Position Paper important too.
    - Would separating Jane's position from tribal liaison take legislative action? Is it feasible at this time? TNEC would like Jane's input. Why doesn't MDE have this in their budget?
    - How many positions @ OIE pre-2016? What was the budget?
  - Letter of support was requested by Emilie Snell-Rood, Associate Professor & Associate Head at UM for a National Science Foundation grant. Emilie had presented to TNEC last year (it would include tribal students in activities such as investigating plant and insect samples.) Billie emailed draft letter of support for TNEC review/approval. Jennifer will sign letter of support.
  - Baabiihaw shared MLBO has Rosetta Stone software for Ojibwe Language. There are 7 levels. Scripts are finished. Cost? Not selling or making a profit. MLBO reserves copyright; is responsible for

intellectual propriety and development. Level 1 may be available by summer.

VII. Next Meeting Date:

- March 18, 2021.

VIII. Adjournment:

- Meeting adjourns at approximately 2:11 p.m.