

Tribal Nations Education Committee (TNEC)
Minutes approved February 20, 2020
January 13, 2020 ~ 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
January 14, 2020 ~ 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Prior Lake, MN

Participants: Jen Murray – Fond du Lac (TNEC Vice-Chair)
Beth Tepper - Shakopee
Dorothy Robinson – Leech Lake
Maria Burnett – Grand Portage
Paul Dressen – Prairie Island
Ron Buckanaga – White Earth
Jesse Kodet – Lower Sioux
David Isham – Twin Cities Metro
Billie Annette – MN Chippewa Tribe

Guests:

Dr. Jane Harstad, Director – MDE OIE
Commissioner Dennis Olson – Office of Higher Education
SMSC Secretary/Treasurer Rebecca Crooks-Stratton
Sarah Weiss, MDE Discipline Policy Specialist/School Climate Center
Craig Wethington – MDE School Climate Center
Justice Alan Page – Ret. MN Supreme Court Justice
Neel Kashkari – President of Federal Reserve Bank of MPLS
Dr. Donna Feir – Federal Reserve Bank
Beth Commers – Federal Reserve Bank
Arlene (?) – Federal Reserve Bank
Edith Gozali-Lee – Wilder Organization
Dr. Nicole Martin Rogers – Wilder Organization

- I. Call Meeting to Order:
 - Jen called the meeting to order at approximately 9:30 a.m.

- II. Approval of Agenda:
 - **Paul motioned to approve the agenda; second by Dorothy. Motion passed.**

- III. Approval of Minutes:
 - **Maria motioned to approved December 19, 2019 teleconference minutes; second by Ron. Motion Passed.**

Guests:

- Rebecca Crooks-Stratton:
 - Provided Power Point.

Discussion:

- Launching to change narrative re Native American K-12 education system. Shakopee investing 5 million over the next 3 years for this initiative.
 - All students must have access to history and modern day presence; contemporary issues.
 - Held "Understanding Native MN" listening session at MIEA.
 - Partnerships needed/develop curriculum.
 - David mentioned Native Educator's in MPLS and meeting with them.
 - A repository is needed/is a goal.
 - Bring Native teachers into the fold; higher education/teacher training.
 - Language revitalization; how will this fit.
 - Indian education luncheon scheduled April 15th at MDE, conference B – Room 16.
 - Reach out to administration and school boards; make sure teachers are doing what they are supposed to.
 - Doesn't want to be over burdensome for teachers.
 - Video-taped lessons; resource scan; MPR.
 - St. Cloud State teacher training mentioned.
 - Summer workshops; generate lesson plans.
 - "Sovereignty Day" booklet was provided.
 - Going forward; we want to do this right.
- Sarah Weiss and Craig Wethington – MDE School Climate Center
 - Sarah and Craig discussed MDE developing guidance on the discipline policy and to share the process and anticipated outcomes.
 - They would like to collaborate proactively with TNEC; develop guidance practices; improve school climate and reduce discipline disparities.
 - A policy to meet the needs of students; one that supports/promotes positive school climate where students feel safe, seen and supported.
 - Note: a power point presentation was emailed to TNEC prior to the meeting: "Developing a Model Code of Conduct."
 - See informational handout "Model Code of Conduct Work Group Charter" showing upcoming meetings at MDE from 3-5 p.m. (Is call-in an option?)
 - Justice Page, FRB President Kashkari, Dr. Nicole MartinRogers, Dr. Donna Feir, Beth Commers, Center for Indian Country Development (CICD), Edith Gozali-Lee, Arlene:
 - Presentation on proposed amendment to the education clause of the MN constitution.
 - Proposed research study on how districts are spending American Indian aid funding and the outcomes they are getting.

- Informational handouts shared: "A Statewide Crisis: Minnesota's Education Achievement Gaps" (booklet), "Closing Minnesota's achievement gaps: Why a constitutional amendment?", "Indian Education in Minnesota: Formula aid funding, culturally responsive education, and improving American Indian student outcomes", "Education Clauses in State Constitutions Across the United States", and "Children First: A community conversation on educating all children."

IV. Old Business:

a. Curriculum Update:

- **Recommendation: Letter to Governor that TNEC needs to be part of the conversation.**
- MREA will be helpful in the conversation to support and promote curriculum.

b. Website Update:

- Lower Sioux logo needs to be updated. Jesse will send updated logo for website.

c. Position Paper:

- Final draft is done. Jen will reach out to Edye to send.
- Add "We are Still Here – Indian Education for All."
- Beth offered that Shakopee will print; a booklet with cover letter; changing the narrative.

d. Other:

- TNEC reminded to get reimbursement forms (SWIFT account) turned in to MDE for February tribal consultations.

V. New Business:

a. MDE OIE Update – Dr. Harstad

- Informational handouts: Legislative Proposals, Agenda: Indigenous Education Task Force Report (11/20/19), Document: Practical Vision, Underlying Contradictions, Sustaining Collaborative Leadership, Building Internal Competency and Capacity to Support AI Learners, Catalyzing External Competency-building, Leveraging Partnerships to Support the Whole Learner, Cultivating Indigenous Educator Workforce, Growing Sustaining Buy-in, Sharing Quality Data/Strengthening Tribes and OIE with Quality Data, Prioritizing Resources and notes and observations, MIEA Listening Notes from 11/14/19, Updated MDE organization chart.
- \$150,000 budget for TNEC in "Indian Education for All" – TNEC needs to put together a budget for this amount:

\$45,000 – TNEC travel cost

\$ 5,000 – Supplies

\$10,000 – Professional Tech (PT Bids – i.e. strategic planning)

\$90,000 – Executive Director (60,000 plus fringe)

- Minimum recommendation – fund OIE to former capacity. (What the budget was and positions in place.)

b. Office of Higher Education Update – Commissioner Olson:

- On January 13th Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan unveiled the third theme of their Local Jobs and Projects Plan – Higher Education. Their proposal invests \$447 million in General Obligation Bonds to maintain campuses, upgrade outdated classrooms and labs, and modernize the student experience to ensure Minnesota’s schools remain on the cutting edge. This funding will leverage an additional \$41 million in MN State system financing, for a total investment in higher education of \$488 million.
- The higher education package will support schools across the state – from 2 year technical programs to 4 year universities – to meet demands of modern workforce. This funding would support increasing space and updating technology and facilities in high demand programs like nursing and health sciences, integrated manufacturing business and technology, STEM, child development, among many others, while also renovating aging spaces that impact college campuses and modernizing the learning experience. This support for post-secondary institutions is necessary to improve MN students with a world-class education and develop the talent needed to keep growing Minnesota’s economy. It will also ease pressure on campus operating budgets, which have fallen on the backs of students in the form of tuition increases.
- The Governor and Lt. Governor also described how considerations of equity weighed into their bonding project selection process. Their process prioritized projects that create more equitable access to state resources and programs. The Local Jobs and Projects Plan includes \$30 million toward capital projects requested by community organizations led by and serving Native communities and communities of color. The proposal also calls for capital budget outreach and assistance to give agencies the capacity to proactively communicate about the state bonding process and support organizations and communities receiving general obligation bonds who have not traditionally participated in the state bonding process. Finally, the plan recommends that local governments receiving capital grants comply with equal pay and workforce participation goals.
- Info attachments – “Building One MN” Higher Ed. & Equity & Inclusion.

- c. TNEC endorsements:
 - Tribal endorsements come from respective tribal governments by resolution, letter or written document (tribe determines.)
 - **All TNEC members need updated endorsements with the exception of David, Edye, Laurie, Ron and Billie.**
 - MDE will be requesting copies of tribal endorsements – resolutions would be most preferred (?)

- d. TNEC Bylaws Review:
 - **Revisions:**
 - ➔ **Page two: remove “Johnson O’Malley” (section 3 – fourth “bullet” on this page.)**
 - ➔ **Page two: add the word “Administration” to the seventh “bullet” on this page to read “Administration and Teacher Licensure (Eminence Credentialing).”**
 - ➔ **Page two: add 2 new “bullets” – one for “Title Funds” and the other “ESSA/Tribal Consultation.”**
 - ➔ **Page two: Article 4 Section 2: change 14 to 15 members...2 members will represent the Twin Cities Metro area (Minneapolis and St. Paul.)**
 - ➔ **Page two: Article 4 Section 3 – change the word “government” to “nation.”**
 - ➔ **Page three: Article 6 Section 1 a. will be revised from “The Chairperson to TNEC approved member...” to read “The Chairperson shall formally represent the TNEC at all meetings and hearings pertinent to Indian Education issues.”**
 - ➔ **Page three: Article 7 Section 1 – the wording for “b” and “c” will be switched (with “b” reading “There are 3 consecutive non-excused...” and “c” reading “A member no longer...”**
 - ➔ **Page three: Article 7 Section 2 b. Add to the end of the sentence “or term as determined by tribal nation.”**
 - ➔ **Page three: Article 8 Section 1: change “bi-monthly” to “monthly.”**
 - ➔ **Page four: Article 9 Section 1: add “simple” majority to the sentence.**
 - **Motion by Beth to approve the amendments; second by Dorothy. Motion passed.**

- e. Elections:
 - Elections will be held at next TNEC meeting. Mike has stepped down as Chair.

VI. Other New Business:

- David shared 2018-2019 AI College Graduation Celebration program/flyer. All college graduates/graduating in 2020 are invited to be recognized (contact David or the planning committee for this event.)

VII. Next Meeting:

- February 20, 2020 following tribal consultations at MDE.

VIII. Adjournment:

- **Motion by Dorothy to adjourn; second by Jesse. Meeting adjourns at approximately 3:00 p.m.**