

Tribal Nations Education Committee (TNEC)
Draft Minutes – Public Meeting
January 20, 2022
Zoom Host: Bois Forte

PARTICIPANTS

TNEC: Jennifer Murray – Fond du Lac (TNEC Chair)
Maria Burnett – Grand Portage (Vice-Chair)
Travis Vake – Bois Forte
Laurie Harper – Leech Lake
Jesse Kodet – Lower Sioux
Paul Dressen – Prairie Island
Beth Tepper – Shakopee
Dana Goodwin – White Earth
Trista Ayers – White Earth (Alternate)
Billie Annette – MCT
David Isham – Twin Cities Metro
Brook LaFloe – Twin Cities Metro

GUESTS: Dr. Jane Harstad, MDE Director OIE
Shannon Geshick, Executive Director MIAC
Doug Paulson, MDE Assistant Director Academic Standards
Bobbie Burnham, MDE Assistant Commissioner
Tadd Johnson, UMD
Pedro Fernandez-Funez, UMD
Benjamin Clarke, UMD
Adosh Unni, MDE Director of Government Relations
Stephanie Graff, MDE Assistant Commissioner
Tom Delaney, MDE Supervisor, Interagency Partnerships
Robin Widley, MDE Special Education Director

- I. Maria called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 a.m.
 - Introductions were made.

- II. Presentations:
 - a. Doug Paulson, MDE Assistant Director Academic Standards:
 - Update on the 60 day public comment period for the social studies standard's rulemaking.
 - Doug will provide monthly updates in person (at TNEC meeting) and in written form.

- b. Tadd Johnson, Pedro Fernandez-Funez, Benjamin Clarke, UMD:
 - New programs for Native American Students.
 - Programs goals are to increase access of regional Native students to terminal degrees, increase number of regional Native biomedical experts, increase number of regional Native physicians and healthcare workers and to improve the health of Native communities in MN.
 - Power point will be emailed.

- c. Adosh Unni, MDE Director of Government Relations:
 - 2022 legislative and partnership strategies.
 - Share info/enhance information pipeline.
 - Will communicate to TNEC and individual Tribal Nations.
 - Budget bills (usually February and March).
 - Education Omnibus (March), Budget Committees (April).
 - Can provide heads-up on bills, hearings; advance notice and which representatives/legislators to connect with.
 - Will flag bills and provide alert to Jane to share.
 - Next week – Governor’s funding priorities.
 - Will provide/plan “legislation 101” training for interested TNEC members.

- d. Stephanie Graff, MDE Assistant Commissioner:
 - Streamlining district submissions to MDE under a One Plan. This is in early phase.
 - Effort beginning to take with connections (federal/state required plan) reducing number submissions to MDE.
 - Is called “the Number One Plan” for now.
 - How to provide supportive feedback about the many plans the districts must submit (such as Integration & Achievement, Title Plans, ESSA, WBWF, Read Well, AI Aid plan, etc.) Plans often ask for much of the same information.
 - Plans are due at different time and have different format – bring together into one submission but maintaining different focuses.
 - Some TNEC members don’t approve of one plan.j

- e. Tom Delaney and Robin Widley:
 - Continued discussion regarding special education.
 - Data request was made/what was shared was not what TNEC was looking for.
 - Cell size was given as a reason to not share data – because smaller sizes could make it easier to identify students.
 - Cultural components in IEPs.
 - Tom will send more info.
 - Conversation will continue; strengthen relationship with TNEC – to increase graduation rate with AI students with disabilities.
 - Note – questions to Tom: Laurie will draft letter on what TNEC is asking for special education and how they solicit our input from other plans. Maria will send questions.

- f. Dr. Jane Harstad, MDE Office of Indian Education. Note: Tyler Livingston was unable to attend but will be present at next TNEC meeting:
 - MN Indian Teacher Training Program (MITTP).
 - TNEC decisions will be needed on how to determine funding for the 4 original grantees and the 2 competitive grantees.
 - Considerations: Divide funding by 6? If all funds not spent, could the four original grantees apply for the competitive funds? Are there any measures TNEC would like to take to make it more functionable? TNEC subgroup?
 - Jane will put questions in bullet point (next week) for TNEC to consider.
 - Bring information for decision to February TNEC meeting.

- g. MIAC Executive Director Shannon Geshick updates:
 - Next MIAC meeting is March 2nd at Black Bear with zoom option.
 - Maria will send TNEC report to Shannon before the meeting date.
 - Has received the TNEC bylaws and membership roster.

- h. Dr. Jane Harstad, MDE OIE updates:
 - Setting up presentation at MIEA. Setting measurable goals for districts.
 - Tribal Relation Training for school leaders.
 - Kristen reviewing AI Aid plans.
 - Items for TNEC to consider regarding AI Aid plans:
 - Activity passes – are these allowable? Jane will check if Title I is applicable.
 - Band instrument rentals – are these allowable? Allowable for JOM. If schools without JOM – could instruments be paid “rent to own” and then become property of IE department to be uses over and over?
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III. Adjournment:

- Laurie moved to adjourn. Second by Dana. Meeting adjourns at 1:58 p.m.