

Tribal Nations Education Committee (TNEC)  
January 21, 2021 ~ 10:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m.  
Meeting Minutes approved February 18, 2021  
Zoom Host ~ Bois Forte

TNEC members in attendance: 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 (alternate TNEC member)  
Ron Buckanaga – White Earth  
Dana Goodwin – White Earth (alternate TNEC member)  
Beth Tepper - Shakopee  
Jackie Probst – Lower Sioux  
Jesse Kodet – Lower Sioux (alternate TNEC member)  
Paul Dressen – Prairie Island  
David Isham – Twin Cities Metro  
Brook Lafloe – Twin Cities Metro  
Edye Washington – Greater MN  
Billie Annette – MCT

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

OHE: Lara Gerhardson, MN Indian Scholarship Program Outreach Liaison  
Commissioner Dennis Olson, Office of Higher Education

Understand Native MN: Rebecca Crooks Stratton, Secretary Treasurer Shakopee Mdewakanton  
Sioux Community

Guest Presenters: Presenters for Center for Indian Country Development (CICD) and  
Wilder Research: Donna Feir, Matt Gregg, Edith Gozali-Lee, Nicole  
Martin Rogers, Alice Lubeck and Elijah Morenco.

Presenters regarding MDE Social Studies Academic Standards: Doug  
Paulson, Filiz Yargici and Dr. Macarre Traynham.

Other Guests: Clinton Fairbanks  
Keenan Humphrey

- I. Meeting Called to Order at 10:02 a.m. by TNEC Chair Jennifer Murray.
- II. Rollcall – a quorum was present.
- III. Approval of Agenda. Motion by Ron to approve the agenda. Second by Travis. Motion passed.
- IV. Approval of December 17, 2020 minutes. Travis motioned to approve the minutes. Second by Maria. Motion passed.
- V. Old Business:
  - a. Curriculum – no updates.
  - b. Website – Dana will add Brook’s name the website (new metro rep.)

VI. New Business:

a. OHE:

- Lara Gerhardson – MN Indian Scholarship update:
  - 747 students have been awarded so far this year.
  - Lara has contacted/maintained contact with students and has also reached out to those who didn't return.
  - There have been challenges with online and hybrid learning.
  - Lara held 48 presentation with MN schools thus far; she has another dozen in the works. The presentations include parents as well as students.
- Commissioner Olson OHE updates:
  - Legislative session – is in budget session.
  - January 26<sup>th</sup> the Governor's budget will be released.
  - Nicole Whelan will be leading an effort for FAFSA completion initiative. Invitation is open to any TNEC members to like to be involved with this initiative – Nicole will send info to TNEC.

b. MDE OIE Updates: Dr. Jane Harstad, Director:

- Commissioner Ricker and Deputy Commissioner may join the meeting when they can.
- OIE will be meeting with Hawaiian group regarding identification. (Kristen has yet connected with Pacific Islanders.)
- American Indian Aid guidance document will need to be updated. OIE is requesting input from TNEC.
- Would like the guidance to be automated like Title grants are (quicker turn around.)
- Align with World's Best Workforce.
- Suggestion: Get input from Indian Education departments and parent committees; collaborate with entities such as MIEA, "We are Still Here", etc.
- Gather a work group to arrange meeting; collect info.
- Commissioner needs to know the void with Guthrie leaving should be filled ASAP.
- Volunteers – Edye, Jenn, Laurie, Beth, Jackie and Billie.
- Separation is needed regarding Tribal Liaison and Director's role.
- Are districts allowed to not listen to other Title guidelines? Is a human rights issue.
- Jane emailed info this morning.
- Indigenous Education for all proposal includes preK-12.
- Round 2 of ESSA and GEAR funds are coming out. Includes funding for learning loss.
- AI parent advisory committee conference/training in the spring. Some are not award of all the funding streams.
- TNEC would like names of the districts not accepting assistance and will send an email request to OIE to provide this information.
- Do tribes have educational data for their students? Jane needs to re-new agreement with tribes for this info and will work on this.

c. MN Indian Teacher Training Program (MITTP) update – Guthrie Caposella.:

- Power point presented.
- Recommendations included transfer of 27,000 to FDLTCC. Would it be a budget revision? Grantees should have to do a whole new grant. Title grant has a revision process – Sara offered to assist.
- Suggestion that TNEC meet with grantees to establish relationship.
- Another recommendation is that TNEC create some guidance for financial aid office and for students.
- Guthrie will be leaving MDE OIE January 27<sup>th</sup>. TNEC thanks him for his service.

- d. 2021 TNEC meeting calendar: TNEC will meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Note: Metro District Tribal Consultations will be February 22-25, 2021 and the last week of October.
- e. Other New Business:
  - The Coalition to Increase Teachers of Color and American Indian
  - Teachers requested TNEC endorsement. Jenn will write a TNEC letter of support.

Guest Presenters:

- CICD (Donna, Matt, Edith, Nicole, Alice and Elijah):
  - Follow-up on the IE formula grant. How is it working; how parent committees are making decisions on how to use funding.
  - Power point provided.
  - Want more guidance from MDE but is limited to what they can.
  - Would like to share results of the study and would assistance with how and who.
- Academic Standards – Social Studies (Doug, Filiz, and Macarre):
  - 1<sup>st</sup> draft went out for feedback.
  - There was a lot of interest.
  - Ethnic studies reflected in the standards.
  - Indigenous Education: a large number who do not understand and they received a number of comments that were negative.
  - A letter was sent to Commissioner Ricker, signed by 11 representatives concerned about areas they find problematic. (Asking why there is Indigenous referred a number of times and not other peoples such as Scandinavian, Norway, Sweden, etc.) TNEC asks for copy of this letter and MDE's response to it – Tribal governments should be made aware.
  - TNEC members Beth, Maria, Dana and Edye are on the Social Standards committee.
  - The timeline for the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft is extended to early spring.
  - Recommendations were sent but not responded to – they should be addressed.
  - 22 standard statements.
  - Anything from TNEC to support Doug's work? Right now, he just wants to make TNEC and others aware. There may be some asks later. He asks to direct and let him know if we hear anything.
  - Filiz – added use model that we don't always agree.

VII. Next meeting date is February 18, 2021.

VIII. Adjournment. Beth motions to adjourn. Second by Edye. Meeting adjourns at approximately 3:24 p.m.