

Tribal Nations Education Committee  
Minutes approved August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
July 15, 2021 ~ 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Zoom Host: Bois Forte

Participants: Jennifer Murray – Fond du Lac ~ TNEC Chair  
Maria Burnett – Grand Portage ~ TNEC Vice-Chair  
Travis Vake – Bois Forte  
Dana Goodwin – White Earth  
Jesse Kodet – Lower Sioux  
Laurie Harper – Leech Lake  
Dorothy Robinson – Leech Lake (alternate)  
Billie Annette – MCT  
Edye Washington – Greater MN  
David Isham – Twin Cities Metro  
Brook LaFloe – Twin Cities Metro

Guests: Dr. Jane Harstad, Director ~ MDE Office of Indian Education  
John Ford – MDE ESSER and GEER Grant Specialist  
Eric Billiet – MDE Expanded Learning Specialist

- I. Jen called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.
- II. Prayer
- III. Rollcall – quorum was present.
- IV. Approval of Agenda: David motioned to approve, second by Travis. Motion passed.
- V. Approval of June 17, 2021 minutes: Maria motioned to approve, second by David. Motion passed.
- VI. Old Business:
  - a. Curriculum: No TNEC subcommittee update. Will add “Indian Education for All” updates under this agenda item for future meetings (Jane will provide these updates.)
  - b. Website: Dana will update as needed. Ron is no longer at White Earth.
  - c. Other:
    - Strategic Plan – needs updating.
    - Position Paper – needs updating.
      - TNEC will meet in person to update both the strategic plan and position paper during the September meeting (tentatively will be in person at FDL September 15-17. Jen will check into arrangements.) Plan will be to hire Dawn Neuman to moderate the strategic planning session (cost is \$8,500 – Dawn recommended a 2 day process). Jane will check about funds available to pay Dawn.
- VII. New Business:
  - a. MDE OIE Updates ~ Dr. Jane Harstad
    - Discussion: Best practices for ARP funds.
    - ARP includes 1.3 billion for E-12 education.
    - 37 school required to have tribal consultation.

- How would TNEC like to proceed?
- Plans are due October 1, 2021.
- TNEC will plan to have one tribal consultation for all on August 4<sup>th</sup>. Jen and John will lead presentation. MDE/Jane will set up the zoom link. (Eric Billiet and John Ford will be invited.)
- Note: SPPS wanted to do tribal consultation with TNEC sooner – had it scheduled for this evening.
- MDE has 18 priorities for ARP funding – list for learning recovery. Jane will send/share the list.
- Use these 18 priorities in the consultations. Edye volunteered to put together examples on a google doc for each of the priorities. A final document will be ready for Jane on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Jane suggested to also include how not to use the funds.
- Question to ask districts is how they will support AI students with the funds.
- Understaffing is a concern for many.
- There is a hiring bonus for hiring teachers of color and Indigenous teachers.
- Freedom school programs – culturally-relevant summer and after-school enrichment to kids in high poverty areas, reading focus, “is proven to curb summer learning loss and help close the opportunity gap.” Some AI programs in metro have indicated having students participating. (Eric Billiet offered to get data for Freedom schools – is part of Title IV part B – and share with TNEC.)
- John and Eric question – Browns Valley has submitted application/forms and indicated they had already had tribal consultation – has TNEC consulted? TNEC has not held any tribal consultations for ARP funding yet. Discussion:
  - How to confirm tribal consultations – suggested affirmation form be tweaked for ARP consultations. Include required signatures. Eric and John will customize affirmation form for ARP (Jane will send them the tribal consultation affirmation form currently used.)
  - Provide list of 37 schools required to consult with tribes.
  - How will TNEC know if suggestions are incorporated into plans; how will TNEC know if districts follow through with plans?
    - Accountability.
    - Will TNEC have access to the plans? Eric or John will check.
- October tribal consultations for metro area schools will be held the 15<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> via zoom from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. MDE will serve as zoom host.
- Recap of legislation season:
  - Very little got through.
  - One thing that did pass was MITTP – funds can be used to cover expected family contribution (EFC)
  - Indigenous Education for All did not pass. OIE still moving forward with curriculum even without legislation; write standards that include American Indian contributions.
  - \$150,000 for TNEC. Jen asked about the budget for this – Jane will look for it and send.

- OIE will have 1 new staff position for the Indian Education for All component (which did not pass.)
  - Question: What about the additional hires for OIE? What is being counted is the new tribal liaison position, administrative position and worker for the IE for all.
  - How to proceed? TNEC has made recommendations. Jen would like Commissioner Heather Mueller to answer the questions she'd asked her at a recent meeting.
  - \$500,000 set aside for tribal state relation training. Districts will need to apply for grants. Concern that districts will not want to apply.
  - AI program plan change – needed to be more aligned with statute. Jane will send a draft. Commissioner would like a rubric on what works – Jane has an idea for this and is working on it.
  - MDE moving ahead to hire tribal liaison. There are 4 applicants qualified for an interview. TNEC members Jen, Beth and Maria are interested in being on the interview committee.
  - Office of legislation auditor will be doing an AI outreach (including TNEC?) to address achievement gap.
- b. OHE Update: Commissioner Olson not in attendance.
- c. MIAC Update: Executive Director Geshick not in attendance.
- d. Legislative Update:
- Requested listing of school districts that have Indian mascots. Jane will send.
- e. Other:
- Invite Jon Peterson and Odia Wood to next meeting for follow up discussions. (Billie will reach out to them.)
  - MIEA is November 3-5,2021 at Prior Lake/Mystic Lake Convention Center. Would TNEC like to present? Suggestion to have updated position paper available for distribution to MIEA membership (include in conference bags.)
  - SPPS tribal consultation with TNEC (re ARP funds) this evening? Jen will email Superintendent Gothard to inform of the August 4<sup>th</sup> consultation date.
  - Question to Jane: Are all schools back in full session for 2021-2022 (online or hybrid)? MDE does not have this data. Is determined at local level.
  - Suggested TNEC send acknowledgement/statement of harm about boarding school (on website and/or other way/s.) Are other nations checking boarding school grounds? White Earth will be utilizing ground penetrating radar.
  - The second draft of social studies coming out in July. There will be a public comment period. AI voice (strong and loud) is needed. How can we encourage this to happen? It is one thing to share/forward it needs to be done but how do we help with getting the word out/follow-thru?
  - Ethnic studies will be embedded. Email Commissioner that TNEC would appreciate updates.

VIII. Next regular Meeting Date: August 19, 2021.

IX. Adjournment: Dana motions to adjourn, second by Maria. Meeting adjourns at approximately 2:00 p.m.