

Tribal Nations Education Committee (TNEC)
Draft Minutes ~ Open Meeting
July 21, 2022 ~ 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Zoom Host: White Earth

PARTICIPANTS: Jennifer Murray – Fond du Lac (TNEC Chair)
Maria Burnett – Grand Portage (TNEC Vice Chair)
Dana Goodwin Williams – White Earth
Trista Ayers – White Earth (Alternate)
Jackie Probst – Lower Sioux
Laurie Harper – Leech Lake
Paul Dressen – Prairie Island
David Isham – Twin Cities Metro
Brook LaFloe – Twin Cities Metro
Billie Annette – MN Chippewa Tribe

MDE: Dr. Jane Harstad, Director Office of Indian Education
Kimberly Brendan, IE Administrative Support
Graham Hartley – Student Access & Opportunity Division
Anjanette Parisien – Indian Education Specialist
Stephanie Burrage – Deputy Commissioner

MIAC: Shannon Geshick, Executive Director

OHE: Commissioner Olson unable to attend (will send written report)

GUESTS: John Bobolink, SPPS Indian Education Director

- I. Jennifer called the meeting to order at 10:39 a.m.
- II. Approval of Agenda: Laurie motioned to approve the agenda with addition of approval of May 19, 2022 minutes. Second by Maria. Motion passed.
- III. Approval of May 19, 2022 Minutes: Laurie motioned to approve the May 19, 2022 minutes. Second by Brook. Motion passed.
- IV. Presentations:
 - a. **11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Tiwahe Foundation Executive Director Nikki Pieratos and Program Director Brook LaFloe:**
 - Presentation about Tiwahe relaunch of the Oyate Leadership Network.
 - PP presentation
 - Tiwahe Fondation is one of few Native lead philanthropic foundations in the country. Note: Look for “Tiwahe Foundation” on youtube.
 - Brook if overseeing the relaunch of Oyate Leadership Network (OLN) initiative.

- Other: American Indian Family Empowerment Program (ALFEP), Wisdom Council, Youth Council, there are 2500 microgrants for individuals, Tiwahe is part of “Linking Leaders” group.

b. MIAC Executive Director Shannon Geshick

➤ MIAC update:

- Next MIAC meeting is August 3-5, 2022 at PIIC.
- TNEC is on the agenda August 4th.
- November meeting is scheduled at Red Lake.
- MIAC is facilitating meeting on consultation policies. Discussion on this at next meeting.
- IE for All not passed (NIEA referenced) – teacher at SPPS brought up lawsuit.

c. Commissioner Dennis Olson, Office of Higher Education:

- A written report will be provided/emailed.

d. Dr. Jane Harstad, MDE OIE Director

➤ OIE update:

- Filiz Yargici, MDE Social Studies Standards has resigned and asked Jane to read a statement to TNEC thanking the group for their work. Note: Filiz remains on the “We Are Still Here” (Wash) community.
- TNEC has concern about folks having left standards – Doug Paulson, Felize Yargici (others? MC and Sara George?) What if more OIE staff leave because of unreasonable workload? Tribal leadership/MIAC should be made aware – include in TNEC report to them.
- Standards and Assessment folks have instructions for MCA’s. Questions: Would parents like info about MCA’s? Would TNEC like the instructions translated in Ojibwe and Dakota? Jennifer would like to see MDE’s process for translating (funds used, how is this done with other languages), recommendation would be to use a group of translators and not just one person.
- Anjanette Parisien reported: had division retreat for strategic planning; joined MDE data steward work group and Dream Catcher group; connected with Alina Compana, COMPASS folks; attended WASH MN meetings. (Jane will email overview/summary of Anjanette’s report.)
- Sam Zimmerman started (but is out on sick leave) – he is the new MDE Indian Curriculum Specialist (Standards and Assessment Division.) “Indian Education for All” will be tribally centered. Questions: Is “tribally centered” cutting out TNEC? Who is in charge of “IE for All” at the State?”
- Math Standards (SONAR): TNEC reps are Jesse and David. Jennifer Dugan to give update – Jane will ask if there is a report/update. Reminder – looking for AI math teachers – need names by tomorrow. Question: Could draft with benchmarks be sent to TNEC? Jane will check and then send.

- The Superintendent's Conference is scheduled August 1, 2022 at Marriot in Brooklyn Park. All TNEC members are invited. Graham and Sam will do presentation on ESSER consultation. Jane shared power point – will email.
- Two OIE positions will be posted – Jane will send once they're posted.
- Arts Standards – nominations open. Note: See Alina Campana email.
- Gearing up for next legislative session – asking for all things that didn't pass in the past few years – Jane will email list. Would like to know other things TNEC want to be brought forward (by August 9th or 10th?)

V. Other:

- TNEC position (pre-meeting discussion): Job classification (MDE) is Office and Administration Specialist, Title-American Indian Education Administration Support, Salary-55-65. Note: Jennifer will fill in PIIC format and send to TNEC.
- Quarterly meetings pre-scheduled with Commissioner Mueller haven't been cancelled (August 19 and November 18).
- John Bobolink, SPPS Director of Indian Education requested TNEC support smudging policy. It is parent committee supported. It is in final stages; including being read three times at school board meeting – third reading will be August 3, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at 360 Coburn St. in St. Paul. It is requested Brook attend to represent TNEC and give the reading. Motion by Laurie to have Brook give the reading representing TNEC in support of the SPPS smudging policy. Second by Jackie. Motion passed.

VI. Adjournment: Brook motioned to adjourn. Second by Laurie. Meeting adjourns at 2:52 p.m.