

Tribal Nations Education Committee (TNEC)  
Draft Minutes  
June 18, 2020 ~ 10:00 a.m.  
Host/Zoom: White Earth

Participants: Jenn Murray – Fond du Lac (TNEC Chair)  
Maria Burnett – Grand Portage (TNEC Vice-Chair)  
Ron Buckanaga – White Earth  
Dana Goodwin – (Alternate – White Earth)  
Travis Vake – Bois Forte  
Leanne Hoffman – Bois Forte (Alternate – Bois Forte)  
Laurie Harper – Leech Lake  
Beth Tepper – Shakopee  
Jackie Probst – Lower Sioux  
David Isham – Twin Cities Metro  
Billie Annette – MCT  
Dr. Jane Harstad – MDE Office of Indian Education  
Commissioner Dennis Olson – Office of Higher Education  
Shannon Geshick – Executive Director, MIAC  
Sara George – MDE ESEA/ESSA Title I, Part A Program Specialist  
Kirsten Rewey – MDE  
Heather Hirsch, MPH – School Climate Specialist  
Janelle Johnson – Northern Sky Center of Excellence  
Lisa Hoogheem - MDE  
Craig Witherspoon – MDE

Paul Dressen – Prairie Island (unable to participate)  
Edye Washington – Greater MN (unable to participate)

- I. Jenn called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.
  
- II. Rollcall and Guests:
  - TNEC quorum is present.
  
- III. Review and Approval of Agenda:
  - Add: Social Studies Standard
  
  - Add: TNEC MIAC report for June 26th
    - **Maria motioned to approve the agenda. Second by Travis. Motion passed.**

IV. Approval of May 28, 2020 TNEC minutes:

- **Maria motioned to approve the May 28<sup>th</sup> minutes. Second by Ron. Motion passed.**

V. Old Business:

- a. Curriculum – no updates.
- b. Website:

- Dana has updated; changed the contact form; agenda request form can now be accessed.

VI. New Business:

a. Heather Hirsch, MPH School Climate Specialist:

- The School Climate Center at MDE was awarded a School Climate Transformation Grant (SCTG) in 2019 to provide assistance with developing the use of trauma-informed approaches and social-emotional learning across districts and schools and is writing for a second grant to increase the number of qualified mental health service providers providing school-based mental health services to students in schools and districts with demonstrated need. This is a highly competitive 5-year grant, estimated at \$2,000,000/year. Grant priorities include: re-specialization of existing mental health service providers to qualify them for work in LEAs with demonstrated need and spurring investment in qualified opportunity zones; and/or focus on improving access to American Indian/Alaska Native Tribal students.
- What are some barriers AI students face in relation to accessing mental health services in schools? Are there areas needing immediate attention?
- FDL had a similar grant years ago. Some barriers were: not a consistent room for the kids, concern about students taken out of class/core subjects. FDLOS now has 4 full-time counselors.
- Reservation schools with Human Services Program – 3rd party billing.
- 60% of AI students educated in metro area – how will services reach these students.
- Could funds be used for school counselors – yes.
- Can American Indian Preference be used?
- Looking beyond the grant – adding incentives for districts to hire AI providers.
- If Bois Forte wanted to be a part of this – how/could this happen? Partner on the application? Heather will follow-up with Travis after this discussion.
- Focus is on districts in NW part of the state; some cut contracts with mental health in their plans; budget cuts were done here first.
- MITTP could partner.
- Some schools contract out mental health services.
- Some parents may be cautious to reach out to mental health workers; trust concerns; concern with stigma.

- b. Kirsten Rewey, MDE Quantitative Analyst:
- Presentation on the North American Indian count sample/preview data reports. See handout/mailed to TNEC "Comparison of Reporting Options for North American Indian Students."
  - Numbers are based off MARSS data base.
  - How are MARSS coordinators being trained? This would be a question for finance.
  - Minnesota uses 7 different platforms.
  - Jane has Kirsten's contact info; Jane shared Kirsten is instrumental for graphs on her report last year.
- c. Dr. Jane Harstad, MDE OIE:
- Discussion on the process for filling the open TNEC urban rep seat (a second seat was approved at a prior TNEC meeting.) An interested person fills out a letter of interest (tribal endorsements would accompany their letter of interest), TNEC then reviews applicants and makes a recommendation to MIAC for approval. Note: Jenn will resend an email she'd sent out after it was discussed at a prior meeting.
  - The metro tribal consultations held in the fall will be held virtually (Zoom) and work towards an in-person meeting in the spring. State workers cannot download Zoom so have TNEC members host? No – TNEC is consultative body; have the school districts set up the meetings. Districts should send paperwork 10 days prior to the consults (all they are doing is updating.)
  - Besides Title plans would TNEC like to focus on distance learning?
  - TNEC looking for; be in in the system to data share. TNEC recommend to MIAC that tribes not sign off until they data share.
  - In reopening of districts, how are they focusing and targeting our kids that distance learning did not work for?
  - Are Indian education parent committees being included/part of the discussion for reopening?
  - What worked and did not work with distance plans?
  - MDE is starting an equity center – Jane will share more as this develops.
- d. Commissioner Dennis Olson, Office of Higher Education:
- Bill passed – OHE mandated to consult with TNEC.
  - MN received approximately 43 million from CARES Act; Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER funding). Much of this funding went for distance learning. Of the 43 million OHE received 5.3 million. An RFP process for all but 300,000. Leech Lake Tribal College, White Earth Tribal College and Red Lake Nation College will each receive \$100,000.
  - Higher education institutions that can demonstrate need \$250,000.
  - Consortiums - \$750,000.
  - There are disparities in enrollment at higher ed institutions – looking into this.
  - Higher education must continue to promote classes whenever possible for distance learning.
  - Tracking FAFSA application and info shows completions are down 12%. 1<sup>st</sup> time students are down 15%, returning students are down 9% and PELL eligible is

down 19%. Native student specific – MISP received 170 less applications than last year. OHE is campaigning to get applications in.

- Jane noted that Ethel Curry applications were down too.
  
- e. Shannon Geshick, MIAC Executive Director
  - TNEC member is needed to present at the next MIAC meeting scheduled June 25-26, 2020 (webex). Note: June 26<sup>th</sup> is the public quarterly meeting where presentations such as TNEC are given. The first day is scheduled for the executive board meeting. Presenters are asked to keep presentation to 15 minutes.
  - MDE hired Lucy Littlewolf-Arias as tribal nations lead to oversee pre-school grant (this is a full-time position.)
  
- f. Other New Business:
  - TNEC report at MIAC:
    - Jenn will give the TNEC presentation at the MIAC meeting on June 26<sup>th</sup>.
    - A draft report will be sent out (Billie will prepare) for review and edit.
  
  - Social Studies Standards:
    - The Social Studies Standards Committee has extended the deadline to apply (extended to June 30, 2020.) The application is posted on MDE's Social Studies webpage. Committee members will be announced July 10, 2020.
    - The committee is made up of a broad representation inviting applications from teachers, administrators, school board members, higher education, business/industry, and citizens; content specialists with expertise across all developmental levels; people from diverse educational settings and from urban, suburban and rural communities.
    - TNEC has 4 seats earmarked to serve on the committee. Discussion: TNEC members interested include Maria, Dana, Travis and Jen. There should be Dakota reps also. Beth said she would be interested; Jesse Kodet will be contacted, Paul's name was mentioned to serve or identify someone from PIIC. Fill the 4 TNEC members – and those who could, would/should apply as a "regular" applicant not taking one of the four TNEC seats (Jenn.) The more TNEC members on committee, the better.
  
  - Jenn is contacting and requesting that BIE school boards be allowed to participate the state school board organization.
  
  - Janelle Johnson – Northern Sky Center of Excellence:
    - Summer meetings are scheduled for July 7<sup>th</sup>, July 21<sup>st</sup>, August 4<sup>th</sup> and August 18<sup>th</sup> (all begin at 10:00 a.m.)
    - All will be zoom meetings.
    - Janelle will send calendar invites.
    - Question: Does Janelle know who to contact regarding the recent fire at the Ponemah powwow grounds? If someone wants to assist/send donations to

assist who to contact? Note: Glenda Martin, District Rep and TNEC rep may be the person to contact.

- MDE Survey Results:
  - MDE sent out a survey for parents asking their input about distance learning.
  - If these were sent to superintendents there is concern if they reached parents.
  - How are a political group being represented?
  - How many AI parents have responded?
  - Survey sent out too late.
  - Why didn't they go with links?
  - Schools took back devices that could have been used to access the survey.
  
- Question regarding if there is damage to devices such as chrome books, who pays?
  - Insurance pays. Parents should not be paying. Jane will contact schools she is made aware of who are charging our kids/families.
  - What about schools that charged parents up front?
  - Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER)/Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds can pay for replacement and repair of tech items.
  - Sara George can serve a reference for questions related to this.

VII. Next Meeting Date:

- July 16, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.
- Dana will set up the Zoom meeting.

VIII. Meeting adjourns at 12:33 p.m.