

Tribal Nations Education Committee (TNEC)
Meeting Minutes approved April 15, 2021
March 18, 2021 ~ 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Zoom Host: Bois Forte

TNEC Members: Jennifer Murray – Fond du Lac (TNEC Chair)
Maria Burnett – Grand Portage (TNEC Vice Chair)
Travis Vake – Bois Forte
Laurie Harper – Leech Lake
Jackie Probst – Lower Sioux
Jesse Kodet – Lower Sioux (Alternate)
Anna Marie Hill-Gutch – Red Lake (for Glenda Martin)
Beth Tepper – Shakopee
Ron Buckanaga – White Earth
Dana Goodwin – White Earth (Alternate)
Billie Annette – MN Chippewa Tribe
David Isham – Twin Cities Metro
Brook LaFloe – Twin Cities Metro
Edye Washington – Greater MN

MDE: Commissioner Heather Mueller
Dr. Jane Harstad, Director – Office of Indian Education (OIE)
Kristen Aiekens, American Indian Program Coordinator (OIE)
Sara George, ESA/ESSA Title I part A Program Specialist
Michael Diedrich, ESSA Policy Specialist

OHE: Commissioner Dennis Olson, Office of Higher Education

MIAC: Shannon Geshick, Executive Director

- I. Meeting called to order at 10:12 a.m. by TNEC Chair Jennifer Murray.
- II. Prayer – Laurie Harper
- III. Rollcall – a quorum was present.
- IV. Approval of Agenda. Motion by Ron to approve the agenda. Second by Maria. Motion passed.
- V. Approval of February 18, 2021 minutes. Travis moved to approve the minutes. Second by Ron. Motion passed.

VI. Old Business:

- a. Curriculum – no TNEC Subcommittee updates.
- b. Website – Dana has made updates including TNEC members names and meeting agenda request.
- c. Other Old Business:
 - Laurie stated LL meeting with Rep. Urdahl today and will give update.
 - Bill offered. No consultation.
 - Make sure bill will not compete with “Indigenous Education for All.”
 - Keeler was unaware of how tribes felt about it.
 - Laurie will keep TNEC updated.

VII. New Business:

- a. Michael Diedrich, MDE ESSA Policy Specialist – discussion re ESSA accountability waiver currently being offered by the USDOE and MDE’s response.
 - Waiver opportunity to state re accountability requirements (testing.)
 - 2020 testing requirements were waived but is not offered this year but have offered accountability requirements.
 - The only results of tests would be used for count of students taking the test.
 - How will schools report how kids are doing? Schools should be communicating to parents regularly.
 - No new data collection requirements.
 - 2 conditions: chronic absenteeism/attendance (should not be compared to past) and access to technology – data that all students have a device.
 - Would report test results but would be used against – use for learning loss?
 - Discipline data collected.
 - Graduation rates will be coming out late April/early May. Results will be pandemic influenced.
 - Michael’s contact number (507) 269-0427.
- b. Commissioner Heather Mueller:
 - At 1 p.m. today the Governor will announce budget.
 - Commissioner Heather gave a brief overview.
 - A written report will be available.

- c. Office of Higher Education (OHE) Commissioner Dennis Olson:
 - Also mentioned the Governor's supplemental budget will be coming out this afternoon.
 - Budget bills – April 9th is final time for these to be heard.
 - Budget restores all proposed cuts.
 - Commissioner Dennis will send a one page info sheet.

- d. MIAC Executive Director Shannon Geshick:
 - HF 903, SF 1415 – Government to Government Relationship with MN Tribal Governments.
 - 13-0 vote
 - Overwhelming bipartisan support – historic.
 - Next MIAC meeting is May 18th at Lower Sioux.

- e. MDE OIE Director Dr. Jane Harstad
 - Tribal consultation for metro area. Jane shared screen with info. Template.
 - TNEC ESSA supplemental documentation (strengths, needs, action items.) Will send to TNEC to review, add, edit, etc. Date to have this done – add comments by next week.
 - Affirmations will be signed by Jen by next TNEC meeting (April 15th.)
 - There is a map developed with info of who needs to consult with whom. And TNEC representative should be included – go to TNEC website to see who is the TNEC contact.
 - BRIC tribal consultation: should Bemidji school district include BRIC for consultation? Required consultation for BRIC? How to hold them accountable.
 - Affirmations – presentation/training at Superintendents meeting.
 - Work on IE Aid guidance – rough draft done. There will be a meeting held next week.

- f. Legislative Update:
 - Re LL meeting with Urdahl: bill (HF 2058 – appropriation; American Indian History Curriculum Grants – for competitive grants for development of AI history curriculum) came up after meeting with FDL.
 - Letter in re academic standards draft – has a problem with the many references to Indigenous people.
 - If bill makes it out of house – senate may sign on it.
 - It is a pile of money/legacy funds.
 - Tribal consultation? Could wrap into Indigenous Education for All?
 - What about the letter – Urdahl remove his name from it? What about the other representatives who signed it? It is wrong – should it be rescinded?

- g. Other New Business:
 - a. SPPS request made for TNEC supporting renaming Ramsey Middle School.
 - The request is to support getting rid of the Ramsey name because of his history toward black and brown people.
 - This is a curriculum piece. All should know.
 - A name to replace is not yet determined.
 - TNEC supports the change.
 - Brook volunteers to draft a letter for TNEC review and approval.
 - b. Eminence (see Dana's email – Feb. 17, 2021.)
 - In what ways can TNEC provide information to one another and to districts seeking a language/culture/history teacher? (How to get a list of those with eminence credentials for open positions.)
 - Different from Nation to Nation.
 - For barriers to getting or renewing license, how/what advocacy can be provided from TNEC directly to PELSB to help with the process.
 - Cost has gone up.
 - TNEC part of endorsement?
 - Ensure those seeking license are coming to tribes.
 - Jane can request list.
 - Public info can be shared with districts.

VIII. Next Meeting Date: April 15, 2021 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

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