

Tribal Nations Education Committee (TNEC)
May 13, 2020 ~ 10:00 – 12:00 p.m.
Teleconference Draft Minutes
Host: MDE OIE

Participants: Jen Murray, Chair – Fond du Lac -Present
Maria Burnett, Vice-Chair – Grand Portage -Present
Billie Annette, Secretary – MN Chippewa Tribe -Absent
Carrie Trutna –Upper Sioux Community
Jackie Probst -Lower Sioux-Present
Edye Washington – Greater MN-Absent
Dave Isham –Twin Cities-Present
Paul Dressen- Prairie Island-Present
Glenda Martin –Red Lake-Present
Leanne Hoffman – Bois Forte
Beth Tepper – Shakopee-Present
Laurie Harper – Leech Lake-Present
LeAnn Benjamin – Mille Lacs
Ron Buckanaga – White Earth-Present
Dana Goodwin – White Earth (alternate)-Present
Dr. Jane Harstad – MDE OIE Director
Janelle Johnson – Tribal Liaison Norther Sky Center of Excellence
Commissioner Mary Catherine Ricker – MDE
Sarah George – MDE

- I. Jen called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.
- II. No Set Agenda
- III. Minutes from last meeting will be sent for next meeting.
- IV. Old Business:
 - a. Curriculum – no updates.
 - b. Website – ongoing.
 - c. Other – no other old business.

V. New Business:

a. Janelle Johnson shared information about her position and trainings available at the Northwest Regional Center in Minnesota. Jackie, Dana, and Marie would like to participate in trainings. Laurie and Jenn requested updates via email.

b. MDE OIE Updates – Dr. Jane Harstad:

i. MDE requested approval to proceed with St. Cloud and Fond du Lac Community College to receive the MITTP Grant. Ron motioned to approve both colleges. Second by Paul. All in favor. Motion passed.

Discussion about how do schools recruit and how is the money disbursed to students to not disrupt their financial aid packages....Can the funding be used as a stipend or loan replacement funds? Jane will organize and schedule a meeting with the MITTP grant recipients and TNEC.

ii. MDE requested for approval to include BIE Tribally Controlled Schools in MDE data reports.

Laurie motioned to approve BIE Schools in MDE data reports. Second by Maria. All in favor. Motion passed.

Discussion about what kind of data to extract for Distance Learning during COVID-19. Please send Jane data requests.

iii. Jane was asked to ask TNEC if they thought Tribal Governments would be willing to pay for Internet services for AI students throughout the state. Jenn stated this is a ridiculous question. Is the state asking us to purchase their textbooks too? Is this asked of other students? Why should the lowest achieving and the most impoverished students not be considered or focused on for School Distance Learning Plans???

c. ESSA Tribal Consultation:

The process to schedule Tribal Consultation; Superintendent or Tribes request a consultation. AI staff are being requested to schedule meetings. It is the Superintendent that should be reaching out to the Tribal Government to schedule a consultation and build long lasting relationships with the Tribes.

d. Distance Learning Concerns:

Discussion was focused on; the inequities are spotlighted for AI students. School staff complaining about students; lack of participation and attendance. Students falling even further behind and Special Education not providing the necessary resources. Some families are thinking about alternative schooling and not having their children attend the public school.

TNEC would like to formalize a request for data on AI students regarding distance learning. (Individual requests from tribes will be done.)

VI. Next Meeting: May 28, 2020 10:00am-12:00pm MDE Teleconference. Jane will send out information.

VII. Meeting adjourned at approximately 12:10 p.m.