

Tribal Nations Education Committee (TNEC)
Minutes approved September 15, 2021
October 21, 2021
Zoom Host: Bois Forte

Participants

TNEC: Jennifer Murray – Fond Du Lac (TNEC Chair)
Maria Burnett – Grand Portage (TNEC Vice Chair)
Travis Vake – Bois Forte
Laurie Harper – Leech Lake
Jesse Kodet – Lower Sioux
Baabiitaw Boyd – Mille Lacs
Paul Dressen – Prairie Island
Beth Tepper – Shakopee
Dana Goodwin – White Earth
Brook LaFloe – Twin Cities Metro
Billie Annette – MN Chippewa Tribe

GUESTS: Dr. Jane Harstad, Director MDE OIE
Kristen Aiekens, AI Program Coordinator MDE OIE
Commissioner Dennis Olson, OHE
Michelle Vaught – PELSB
Erin Bailey – Governor’s Children’s Cabinet
John Bobolink – SPPS IE Director

- I. Jennifer called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.
- II. Prayer was given by Billie.
- III. Rollcall: A quorum was present.
- IV. Approval of Agenda: Motion by Dana to approve with addition under Old Business (b – item 1). Second by Laurie. Motion passed.
- V. Approval of September 17, 2021 minutes: Motion by Maria to approve. Second by Brook. Motion passed.
- VI. Old Business:
 - a. Curriculum/Indian Education for all (Jane):
 - MDE in process/develop process to get funding to curriculum writers; requests input/guidance from TNEC on how this will work. Should it be one Ojibwe and one Dakota writer? Recommendation is this will be a team effort. All communities have invested at some time to curriculum development. There is a rubric – can TNEC see it? Not currently.

b. Other

1. Strategic Planning Subcommittees Updates.

- Brook is working on 2022 meeting calendar. In-person meetings (with virtual option?) in 2022 with 2 full-day meetings (during 3rd week of each month) with Wednesdays being closed meetings for TNEC business, Thursday will be public meetings and Friday will be for subcommittee work. Meetings that are fall on quarterly dates will include meeting with/inviting the Commissioner on Fridays.
- Jen will send out email for input on the TNEC administrative position (contract or benefit position, housing, etc.)
- Travis received 6 responses regarding TNEC meetings. He will resend to those who've not yet responded.
- Laurie: NARF is willing to help TNEC navigate what processes are after findings of the audit of the academic achievement gap on students of color.

VII. New Business:

a. Erin Bailey, Governor's Children's Cabinet, MN Management and Budget:

- Note that Commissioner Olson and Leroy Staples-Fairbanks sit on this Cabinet.
- Legislative directed Early Childhood Governance Report: In the HHS omnibus passed at the end of session in late June, the legislature directed the Children's Cabinet to complete a report by February 1, 2022 informed by community engagement on the governance of programs related to early childhood development and how they could be consolidated into an existing agency or a new state Department of Early Childhood.
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) and Direct Certification for School Meals: Children's Cabinet staff, in partnership with the MDE and DHS is working on efforts to expand food access for children and families in MN. One of those efforts is coordinating to improve access to school meals by increasing awareness of the opportunity for students in households accessing FDPIR to be directly certified for the School Meal Program to reduce the paperwork for families and increase eligibility for school meals.
- Power Point presentation.
- Will meet again with TNEC.

b. Michelle Hersh Vaught, Rulemaking Specialist PELSB:

- Update on PELSB's rulemaking project, including: The Standards of Effective Practice (the pedagogy knowledge and skills required for all beginning teachers in Minnesota) and the American Indian History, Culture and Language license.
- Closer to pushing a hearing.
- Note: Maria sits on PELSB as a TNEC rep.

- c. Commissioner Dennis Olson, OHE:
- FDLTCC leadership may want to connect with TNEC re exploring how best to serve urban Native students.
 - FDL scholarship director Shelly West may be reaching out to other tribal scholarship directors to discuss funding policies for students.
 - Starting process for upcoming legislative session in late January. OHE developing policy and budget proposals.
 - OHE is always looking for ways to better support the students.
 - Soft launch spring semester of the MN Future Together Grants to provide tuition-free pathways for high need careers. Full launch in the fall.
 - Children's cabinet – vaccine incentives for 12-17 year old - \$200 and chance for \$100,000 scholarships (5 scholarships – drawing will be held.)
- d. Dr. Jane Harstad, Director MDE OIE:
- Fund for TNEC from MDE general operating fund: PIIC fiscal host. MDE needs a work plan and more thorough budget. Jane has a meeting set to see what explicitly is needed. (This will be discussed with the strategic planning conversation.)
 - Tribal consultations: staff turnover at some schools so foundational work will need to be done. Send supplemental docs to districts now so they can plan to have an update? (Question: So, if they are asking now, they haven't addressed it?)
 - AI aid plans: Some are doing well; others are not.
 - Asking for TNEC input on: curriculum writing – how to move forward – what should be the criteria (licensed, endorsement of a MN tribal nation, will take a team of people)? MDE has/will have full-time position to get this off the ground.
 - Tribal relations training for school leaders: Commissioner Mueller would like superintendents to be first to receive the training. TNEC recommends including the 40+ districts identified with discipline disparities to also be first in receiving training; others would be schools on or near reservations, all schools required to have parent committees, achievement and integration, schools requiring consultation (ESSA). Train trainers. Have an educational panel and include Family and Children Services.
 - Are there certain topics educators must know about? Boarding schools; ICWA; protocols involving smudging, eagle feathers; identification; IE Act, treaties; trust responsibilities; sovereignty were some mentioned.
 - Tribal Liaison position is opening up again for candidates; a new set of interviewers will be needed (why? Jane will ask to in writing.) Interviewers must commit to all the meetings. When? ASAP – possibly the 1st week of November. Paul Dressen volunteered to serve as an interviewer if needed.
- e. Shannon Geshick, Executive Director MIAC (submitted written report):
- MIAC meeting will be held at Prairie Island and via WebEx on Tuesday November 16th. This day is dedicated to updates to the executive board. TNEC is on the agenda this date to give an update to the tribal leaders. The

following morning is reserved for public presentations. The link to the meeting is on the MIAC website.

f. Other New Business:

- Baabiitaw shared update on Rosetta Stone initiative. January 2022 is the rollout of software. It includes educational materials, teacher materials, lessons, fluent speakers are recorded, 2nd language actors and more.
- Has TNEC had any formal agreements/met with TNEC re IE for All? Recommended a collective meeting of all entities invested in this initiative. Jane will set up meeting with TNEC, MIEA, NIEA, WASH, MUD and PIE.

VIII. Adjournment: Brook moved to adjourn. Second by Laurie. Meeting adjourns at approximately 2:33 p.m.