

Tribal Nations Education Committee (TNEC)  
Draft Minutes  
September 24, 2020 ~ 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Host: Bois Forte via Zoom

Participants:

- Jennifer Murray – Fond du Lac (TNEC Chair)
- Maria Burnett – Grand Portage (TNEC Vice Chair)
- Travis Vake – Bois Forte (TNEC Rep)
- Laurie Harper – Leech Lake (TNEC Rep)
- Dorothy Robinson – Leech Lake (Alt. TNEC Rep)
- Jackie Probst – Lower Sioux (TNEC Rep)
- Jesse Kodet – Lower Sioux (Alt. TNEC Rep)
- Beth Tepper – Shakopee (TNEC Rep)
- Ron Buckanaga – White Earth (TNEC Rep)
- Dana Goodwin – White Earth (Alt. TNEC Rep)
- David Isham – Twin Cities Metro (TNEC Rep)
- Glenda Martin – Red Lake (TNEC Rep)
- Carrie Trutna – Upper Sioux (TNEC Rep)
- Edye Washington – Greater MN (TNEC Rep)
- Billie Annette – MCT (TNEC Rep)
- Lee Turney – Leech Lake Early Childhood Director
- Commissioner Dennis Olson – OHE
- Dr. Jane Harstad, Director – MDE OIE
- Guthrie Caposella – MDE OIE Program Specialist
- Sara George – MDE ESEA/ESSA Title I Program Specialist
- Jeanne Dickhausen – MDE Head Start Collaboration Director
- Jon VanOeveren – MDE Data Mgr. Div. of Early Learning
- Lucy Littlewolf-Arias – MDE Tribal Nations Lead, Preschool Dev. Grant
- Debbie Hewitt, Asst. Commissioner – MDE Teaching & Learning
- Bobbie Burnham, Asst. Commissioner MDE Teaching & Learning
- Dawn Cameron – MDE Statewide Student Assessment Division
- Janelle Johnson, Tribal Liaison – N. Sky Ctr. of Excellence

- I. Jenn called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.
  - TNEC quorum is present.
- II. Approval of Agenda:
  - **Motion by Ron to approve the agenda. Second by Maria. Motion passed.**
- III. Approval of August 20, 2020 Minutes:
  - **Motion by Maria to approve August 20<sup>th</sup> minutes. Second by David. Motion passed.**
- IV. Old Business:
  - a. Curriculum – no updates.
  - b. Website – no updates

c. Other Old Business:

- Follow-up from August meeting:
  - Social Studies Standards: Doug Paulson would like to be on the November TNEC agenda. TNEC oks to add him to the agenda.
  - ELA Standards Draft: Doug emailed the draft document August 21<sup>st</sup> asking for TNEC input/edits by September 30<sup>th</sup>.
  - Results from survey (Ojibwe, Dakota & Cherokee families): Jane reported this information will be available in October and will share with TNEC once she received it.
  - Tribal Consultation with MDE: Jane and Jenn have been in contact/had discussion with Kirk (?); can be associate members (?); BIE school boards can attend/receive training.
  - TNEC at-large Metro Rep: Jenn will contact Shannon.

Presentations:

1. Jeanne Dickhausen, MDE Head Start Collaboration Director (and early learning team) regarding Tribal Head Start/Early Head Start Allocation:
  - Requested time on agenda to share information and seek input regarding the state Tribal Head Start/Early Head Start allocation distribution referenced in state statute 119.A.52.
  - Power Point presentation, demonstration allocation chart, notes & materials from the August 27,2020 Tribal Head Start Directors meeting will be emailed to TNEC. (Note – these were emailed after the TNEC meeting.)
  - 2 different models of tribal head start allocation: #tribal children not served by tribal census data and reserving 10/72% of state appropriations on proportion of total tribal agency federal funding.
  - Not all 11 Tribal Nations are listed.
  - 2 seats allotted for tribes.
  - 33 projects in MN; 8 tribal programs.
  - TNEC members contacted? Not all. If TNEC doesn't have an invite, can't support with information.
  - Next step: TNEC talk with Tribal Head Start directors on being heard; put more weight on their input.
  - MDE scheduling tribal consultations. (FDL has consultation tomorrow.)
  - Dr. Harstad, Lucy Aria, Lee Turney rely on their (MDE Head Start Collaboration team.)
2. Dawn Cameron, MDE Supervisor, Science, English Learner and Alternate Assessment:
  - Requested time on the agenda to introduce a request for interested TNEC members to be part of MDE committee developing the Alternate Assessment Test Specifications for the alternate assessment taken by students with the most significant cognitive disabilities (currently now called MTAS). Test specifications are the guiding document describing which standards will be assessed and how will be assessed for the academic standards in reading and science.
  - Ready to redesign; will start in October; group training will be offered; small group of teachers; request TNEC members on the committee.

- Why did the middle assessment go away? Need for creation of new assessment?
- Of 350-plus students who take the test, how many are AI? Dawn will follow up.
- Note: Dawn sent an email September 25<sup>th</sup> to TNEC with information including an October 6<sup>th</sup> date to contact her if interested in being a formal part of the committee.

V. New Business:

a. OHE Commissioner Olson:

- MISP: Propose two changes (1) modify the ancestry requirement to include citizens and enrolled members of Tribal Nations as eligible applicants. Currently the statute requires students possess ¼ blood or more ancestry. (2) propose to provide full-year awards for eligible students. Currently summer term is not included.
- No immediate action from TNEC is needed.
- Additional information can be sent upon request. Beth would like more info from Dennis' presentation.
- October 14<sup>th</sup> public engagement call will be "American Indian Experience in Higher Education" and interested TNEC member(s) is invited to be part of the panel. David and Jesse volunteered.
- Recommendation from Jackie to have conversation/hearing from students on their journey to finding their major.
- U of M program "Expanding the Circle" – there is TNEC interest in hearing more about this for students with disabilities.

b. MN Indian Teacher Training Program (MITTP) – Guthrie Capossela:

- There were 4 graduates from MITTP in 2019-2020.
- Discussion on proposed updates to the statute (document emailed to TNEC members before the meeting today.)
- Covering EFC.
- How to reduce barriers.
- See Subd.9(b) – "Scholarships may be used to cover any costs related to an eligible student's enrollment and completion of eligible programming including: (1) All cost included in cost of attendance, (2) Cost associated with obtaining teacher license or other certifications (3) costs associated with enrollment."
- Total cost of attendance and what that entails – any feedback from financial aid officers? Not yet/no follow up.
- A main concern from Edye – program was turned over to UMD and she is no longer in the loop. Isn't the program to be a partnership with the institution and public school? Who are the contacts from each partner? The RL & BSU MITTP program was turned over to BSU – how is partnership working?
- Get an update on how partnerships are working – one should not have more say than the other.
- Should there be tribal consultations with MITTP?
- Cultural competency training with FA officer?
- Strengthen language to have accountability to OIE and/or TNEC?

- Guthrie will follow up with partnerships and moving ahead – will have update at the October meeting.
  - TNEC would like to have MITTP updates as a standing agenda item.
- c. MDE OIE Director Dr. Jane Harstad:
- Consultation on district plans is not happening. Commissioner Richer has sent a letter to districts who have not had consultations. Some consulted after the fact. Which schools did not reach out at all? Jane provided info on those who have consulted. Some consulted before the plan was in place and some consulted with a plan in place.
  - Commissioner looking at Executive Order 1924. MDE reaches out to all Tribes for consultation and some have been scheduled.
  - The Commissioner will fill out agenda request form for October 22<sup>nd</sup> TNEC meeting.
  - What is the staffing level at OIE? TNEC recommendation that more staff is needed at MDE Office of Indian Education. Maria will be bringing this to Tribal Council.
  - Indigenous Task force next meeting date is October 15<sup>th</sup> from 9-11 a.m. Jane will send info.
  - AIE achievement report will be made public soon. It contains data on attendance, special education, proficiency and graduation.
  - IE Aid: October 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for plans (requests for extensions will be accepted.) If a district/school plan is over 50% salaries, Guthrie will schedule a meeting with the AIPAC to make sure the AIPAC understands what is going on and why (with the aid.) **Motion to approve looking at plans case by case and having Guthrie meet with AIPAC as needed. Second by Travis. Motion passed.**
- d. MDE Graduation for Students with Disabilities:
- Tom Delaney, Interagency Partnerships Supervisor – re grant application/requesting TNEC letter of support. Tom has completed a agenda request form for the October meeting and is approved to make a presentation.
- e. Other New Business:
- f. David shared that Deb Blair is leaving Elk River Indian Education after many years; she is taking an early retirement because the district would not allow her request to remote teach because of health issue.
- Has she filed a complaint? Aren't school supposed to be accommodating for situations such as this?
- Billie shared she has been asked to sit on a non-profit board with a focus on education legislation that includes gifted students. She has not committed.

- VI. Next Meeting Date:
- October 22, 2020 ~ 9:00 a.m.

- VII. Adjournment:
- Meeting adjourns at approximately 2:06 p.m.

