

South Dakota Indian Education Advisory Council Meeting
March 22, 2019, 1:00-4:30 p.m. CST in MacKay Conference Room 5
800 Governors Drive, Pierre, SD

Participants: Charles Cuny Jr, Megan Deal, Cherie Farlee, Dave Flute, Ben Jones (on phone), Mary McCorkle, Marta Neuman, Jay Perry, Sarah Pierce, Ann Robertson, Kay Schallenkamp (on phone), Jacqueline Sly (on phone), Gail Swenson, and Shannon Malone (visitor).

Abbreviations:

BIE: Bureau of Indian Education
DOE: Department of Education
DTR: Department of Tribal Relations
ESSA: Every Student Succeeds Act
IEAC: Indian Education Advisory Council
IES: Indian Education Summit
OSEU: Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings
RFP: Request For Presentation (proposal)
SGU: Sinte Gleska University

Prayer, Welcome, Introductions: Sarah gave an opening prayer, and Dave welcomed everyone. Each participant introduced themselves. Sarah Pierce was congratulated on her recent Bush Fellowship. This prestigious honor is for one-two years of education and research opportunities; Sarah plans to deepen an understanding of cultural diversity education in Hawaii and Germany as a part of this.

Transition of Indian Education Advisory Council and the Office of Indian Education: Secretary of Tribal Relations David Flute, and Interim Secretary of Education Dr. Ben Jones: Ben Jones welcomed everyone, and he looks forward to working together. He thanked the Tribal Relations Office staff on their successful Tribal Relations Days February 26-27 at the Capitol, with their spotlight this year on education. Ben also noted that the state DOE does not view this transition as a change in our goals or efforts. We will re-evaluate initiatives on languages and others; efforts in these areas will not change and DOE will share in it. Since access to a high quality education for our students is very much a concern for all of us, we will continue to work together (DOE and DTR) towards that goal.

Dave said his office has received 26 applications for the Indian Education Director position; these are being reviewed. He hopes that by the May 10 IEAC meeting this new Director will be in place, and that he/she will build on the current relationships and efforts. He said the DTR is preparing office space. Dave commended Dr. Jones and the DOE team; we are off to a good start, staying on track and staying positive. Dave noted that the office of DTR's purpose is not as an advocate for tribes since tribes advocate for themselves. Dave's role is to listen to concerns and to share; his office's role is to foster and improve state/tribal relations. Dave noted that the Governor's Cabinet Members follow orders, and will do their best to build on all the current established relationships and shared experiences. Dave commended Ben for the good first steps; DTR will continue to work closely with DOE. Ben said that even after this transition is completed, DOE certainly looks forward to working with DTR and all the tribes.

Marta shared a list of notes from a Transitional Meeting between DTR and DOE, held February 21, 2019. Dave opened the floor for discussion:

Sarah said that Tribal consultations are appreciated. She asked how the State's accountability fits in, including achievement rates, graduation rates, etc. for our nine tribes here (in SD) Title programs, advocating at the national and global levels. She asked about sharing further with the larger community. Sarah also noted that in the Rapid City Area Schools there are more than 3,000 Native American students representing 65 various nations. Concern was expressed regarding disenfranchising many of these Native American students, including urban Natives with no ties to local SD tribal communities. Dave mentioned that other SD schools such as Pierre Indian Learning Center also serve many tribes, some local and some outside SD. We can and do reach out to their respective tribes with needs and concerns. We can cooperate, offer assistance and advice; but it is not our responsibility to cover these other states' cultures. Ben reaffirmed that we would not want to do anything that would disenfranchise or otherwise harm anyone's opportunity for an education. Funding for operating the Office of Indian Education will be transferred from DOE to DTR. Currently this includes 1.5 FTE (Full-Time Equivalent) employees, and other expenses. Marta will continue to assist with all activities until her retirement May 23, 2019.

Approval of December 11, 2018 Meeting Minutes: Gail made motion to approve; Jay seconded; all in favor. Minutes approved unanimously.

Updates on Major Office of Indian Education Projects from Marta Neuman: Marta explained the 2015 Governor's Order; the Native American Student Achievement Advisory Council met several times that year including trips to visit schools in NM and CO. Report submitted to Governor November 2015; then in January 2016 state legislature passed two grants with up to \$2.2 million. Senate Bill 81 is the Paraprofessional Tuition Assistance Scholarship; Senate Bill 82 is the Native American Achievement Schools Grant. These two existing grants end 12.31.19; funding will be gone 6.30.20. A select group of 47 SD public schools with high Native American populations was identified to qualify for these two grants.

NAAS Grant Schools: Guidance/training provided by NACA (Native American Community Academy) in NM on whole-child approaches, and redesigning public schools with indigenous teachings. Two schools:

- 1) Todd County Middle School began 2015-16; at that time it was the lowest performing Middle School in SD, but has since shown dramatic decreases in behavioral issues and great data for improvement in reading, math, and science. They adopted OSEU in all classes, embraced culture and a culturally responsive environment and Lakota language classes. They replaced most punitive consequences for behaviors, with restorative responses; trauma-informed instruction; tribal and community are involvement. All changes are sustainable.
- 2) He Dog Elementary of the Todd County School District, began a bit later and changed fellows, but is making good progress. Spiritual wellness; indigenized curriculum; elders, local leaders and veterans sharing stories; higher education awareness and opportunities; promoting sense of belonging.

The Paraprofessional Tuition Assistance Scholarship Program is a 'Grow-Your-Own' program for paras currently working in the schools to finish their degrees and become full-fledged classroom teachers. Began in 2015-16 with Black Hills State University operating the program, with twelve students; additional cohort added in 2016-2017. Some have graduated; seven are still working on completing their degrees.

We may request additional legislation in future years, to continue/expand these types of programs at these and additional schools. Ben noted that in the near future we will look at new permanent strategic initiatives, identify the difficulties and successes of these two grant programs and what this could look like at other schools. Ben noted that he, the Todd County Middle School fellow, and Governor Noem are all watching the progress and outcomes.

Ben thanked Marta for her help.

2019 SD Indian Education Summit: Planning Updates from Marta Neuman and Kathy Aplan: Dave noted that the DTR Tribal Relations Days at the Capitol went very well; Kathy Aplan/DTR assisted with that and will assist with the Indian Education Summit.

Marta thanked the IEAC for assistance and support with IES over the years. 2019 IES will be September 22-24 at the Ramkota Conference Center in Pierre, the 16th annual. IEAC members are encouraged to share ideas for IES (keynotes, topics, sessions, speakers, drum/dance groups, anything else.) RFP is available on the website; due June 3. The 14-member planning committee has met twice thus far (January 25 and March 1). The planners chose the theme 'Moving Forward Together'. Megan offered to serve on this committee. General format will be similar to 2018, with some 50-minute informational sessions and some 80-minute workshops; also keynotes, special features, student participants, Youth Day, and other features. Participants also have three options to earn credit: Continuing Education Units for teacher recertification/DOE, one-hour undergraduate/SGU, or one-hour graduate credits/SGU. Marta shared copies of the IES postcard, for IEAC members to share with others—everyone is encouraged to promote the Summit and invite as many as possible to register and attend. A short video on highlights of the 2018 IES is available at indianeducation.sd.gov. Dr. Scott Simpson and Sharla Steever, who facilitated the day-long OSEU and WoLakota training at the 2018 IES, have been asked to return for 2019 to offer further onsite training--again including elders and classroom teachers successfully utilizing OSEU. These are rich, classroom-ready resources.

By-Laws: (see handout). Marta noted that these By-Laws were revised a few years ago but need a new revision. Examples: (several occurrences of each) Department of Education could now read as Department of Tribal Relations; Secretary of Education could now read Secretary of Tribal Relations; State Board of Education is now renamed the State Board of Education Standards. Marta will draft updates and send to the IEAC, then we will discuss this further at the next meeting on May 10. Dave will also research the process for amending By-Laws; Ben concurred.

Membership Changes, Including Eight New Members: (see By-Laws Art. III) Discussion on Art. III-2a regarding tribal representation. All tribes have been invited; Dave noted that it is the tribes' responsibility to provide a representative. According to Art. III-4b, members can send a proxy if needed. Marta welcomed the six new members and two new leaders, and asked everyone to review the current membership list and notify her of any updates needed.

Annual Schedule of Meetings: (see By-Laws Art. V-2) Today's March 22, 2019 meeting is the first one held in 2019. Remaining meetings for 2019 are tentatively scheduled for: May 10 in Pierre, July 12 in Sioux Falls, September 22 in Pierre (just before IES), December 10 or 11 in Rapid City (just before LNEC/Lakota Nations Education Conference).

Annual Report: (see By-Laws Art. II-7) (handout ‘Recommendations to Improve Indian Education in South Dakota’) This is the report submitted by Mato Standing High; it was also submitted to the Secretary of Education, the Governor’s office, and the Tribes.

Other:

Charles suggested looking at Tribal nations across the United States and their unique relationships with their respective states. Look at what other states are doing to support tribal schools, and the levels of additional state funding in other states outside South Dakota; some areas also offer benefits options for educators in tribal schools (health insurance, retirement, etc.) There is a perception of somewhat strained relationships between the state and BIE/tribal schools; more support from the state is needed. Is there an accountability waiver for tribal schools? There is a critical need for school construction and/or renovation of school facilities.

Shannon Malone/DOE Title 1 and Accountability Director: update on accountability, and the ESSA State request, and submitting an amendment to the State plan (see handout ‘South Dakota’s State Plan Revision: Stakeholders Workgroup’). The 2019 Plan was amended slightly: N-size of 10 students in a current year as a component of the system for a school to move forward into SPI (School Performance Index). With the initial year N-size of 10, then do a culmination of three years. 2017 was the first state plan; two years of data is needed to reflect upon. An 18-member Workgroup met March 19-20, 2019 to review our State plan; a second meeting will be June 18 or 19 in Pierre—any IEAC members are welcome to join the group (contact Shannon if interested). Board of Regents could also be included. New assessment testing is in April (there was a possible change with the high school testing to conduct optional end-of-course assessment but this did not pass, so the high school testing will remain the same.) Currently we only count four-year graduates for the graduation rate but SPED (Special Education) officials would like to change that (not counting these students as ‘dropouts’ if they don’t finish in four years.) Additional possible changes to the plan: fixing up the language to avoid extra burdens on the schools; ‘attendance rule’ from 94% (now at 90%--clarify full academic year, or any students?); school quality indicator now has attendance as the fifth indicator (question on whether attendance is the best measure); recommendation to pilot 2019-2020 school year continue with attendance and with child well-being to include vision and hearing tests; special schools such as alternative high schools and credit recovery programs and how that works into accountability; ‘gap group’ not required by law but could be renamed; schools in school improvement programs—how they are identified and how they exit.

Ben Jones thanked Shannon for this important work on the state plan; the tribes have an opportunity to participate and voice their opinions in this process.

Gail: was in Washington DC recently at a NAFIS Conference (National Association of Federally Impacted Schools). At the conference they discussed the possibility of eliminating Impact Aid, which is a major source of funding for many schools. SD legislators Rounds, Thune and Johnson all sit in the Impact Aid group. Gail will share further information with the IEAC members.

Note that that the annual Tribal Consultation meeting is scheduled at the SD IES per the Tribal Consultation group’s request.

Sarah: mentioned a special day at RCAS (Rapid City Area Schools): April 10, 2019 will include a Native American education initiative meeting, and a Tribal consultation meeting. Sarah will share an invitation and further details with IEAC.

Sarah: shared updates on RCAS projects: OSEU being utilized district-wide for the second year (at first some of their teachers had no OSEU background knowledge); recent revision of Indian Education coursework. At the college level, we need more consistent teacher training including basic understandings of OSEU. The Bush Foundation may provide funding for more statewide use of OSEU. Mary said that SDEA conducts some train-the-trainer sessions on OSEU.

Public Comments: None.

Next Meeting May 10, 2019 in Pierre: 1:00-4:30 p.m. CST in MacKay Conference Room 4 (second floor, 800 Governors Drive) in Pierre.

Prayer and Closing: Dave provided a prayer, and thanked everyone for their participation.

Respectfully submitted by
Marta Neuman



Dave Flute, Secretary of Tribal Relations

03/29/2019

Date

Dr. Ben Jones, Interim Secretary of Education

Date