

South Dakota Indian Education Advisory Council Meeting
May 10, 2019, 1:00-4:30 p.m. MacKay Conference Room 5
800 Governors Drive, Pierre, SD

Participants: Sarah Pierce, Cheryl Medearis, Ann Robertson, Jay Perry (on phone), Dave Archambault Sr., Marta Neuman, Megan Deal, Everall Fox, Jacqueline Sly, Kay Schallenkamp, Secretary Ben Jones (on phone), Secretary Dave Flute, Laura Schiebe (Visitor), Cal Reeves (Visitor), Bob Mercer (Visitor), and Sarah Mearoff (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
McREL: Midcontinent Research for Education & Learning
OSEU: Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings
SGU: Sinte Gleska University
TIE: Technology & Innovations in Education Office

Prayer, Welcome, Introductions: Sarah opened in prayer, and Sec. Flute welcomed everyone.

Transition of Indian Education Advisory Council and Office of Indian Education: Secretary Dave Flute: Sec. Flute thanked Marta Neuman and Ben Jones for their kind contributions to the Office of Indian Ed. He then announced that DTR would be bringing on Juliana WhiteBull Taken Alive as the new Office of Indian Ed. Director. She has made it through the pre-employment process and is starting on May 28, 2019.

Approval of the March 22, 2019 Meeting Minutes: Sec. Flute gave the Advisory Council some time to read the minutes from the March 22, 2019 meeting. Afterwards, Jackie made motion to approve; Kay seconded; all in favor. Minutes approved unanimously.

2019 SD Indian Education Summit: Planning updates from Marta Neuman: Marta explained that she had sent out scholarship assistance letters. These are for college junior and senior education majors, and paraprofessionals that are invited to the Summit. DOE feels that it is important for these individuals who are seeking out teaching careers to attend the Summit. She stated that registration will be opening soon. DTR is working on new contracts and partnerships with the TIE office. The TIE office has worked with DOE in the past. They handle the registration, fees, payments, and invoices. TIE should have registration up and running soon. As for marketing, DOE has save-the-date post cards, for those that would like one. Marta has also been sharing information about the summit with various organizations that put out their own newsletters in order to provide info for those seeking it. In June, there will be one-thousand letters sent out in a mass mailing invitation about the Summit to the public, private and

Tribal/BIE school administrators, school board presidents, Tribal chairmen, legislators and others.

During the Summit, there will be a Youth Day for high school juniors and seniors. For this, a one-day registration will be paid for participants by Summit funds, which includes one meal and travel compensation for one vehicle per school. During the Youth Day, there will be Native American games, a college fair, and luncheon with the keynote speaker. This has worked out well for the last two years. Invitations have already been sent out to around fifty schools about this. Of the fifty schools, two have already committed to come. Sec. Flute went on to give credit to Kathy Aplan and Alli Moran for their contributions to the upcoming Summit as well. Jackie then asked about where funding comes from for the Summit. Marta explained how the funding comes from registration fees and donations. Kay then asked if the entire function would be moving to DTR in the future? Sec. Flute commented that by saying, yes, the transition has already begun. The last component was hiring Juliana as the new Office of Indian Ed. Director. Once Juliana starts, the transition will be mostly complete. Megan Deal then gave some comments to Marta on how well the Youth Day went from a P.E. teacher's perspective.

Marta went on to say that there will be two major meetings held before the Summit: another IEAC meeting and a tribal consultation meeting. As for RFP's, we only have ten so far. We have also been in contact with TIE office, specifically those who facilitate the OSEU trainings. During the summit, they will host a day long training at the summit. Additionally, we've contacted Ed Schupman and Coleen Smith with the National Museum of the American Indian at The Smithsonian, who gave wonderful presentations last year, and have been very good to work with. They will possibly be doing something again with us this year at the Summit. Sec. Flute mentioned that if any of the council members have any friends or colleagues who would like to do a presentation, to please reach out and let them know the IEAC is looking for more presenters. Marta pointed out that we are looking for speakers on a broad array of topics, and not just education strictly.

Marta went on further to elaborate on the budget. Appeals for donations have been sent out to several different places. There are some funds remaining from last year, and currently we are sitting at \$20,365.68, which includes a \$5,000 donation that just came in from Sanford. Sanford, Avera, McREL, the Tribes, SDEA and the BOR have all made donations or pledges to the help cover costs of the Summit. There are many individuals that aren't required to pay registration although they have jobs during the Summit. For Instance, speakers, panelists, and the IEAC, who still help to incur costs during the event, are not required to pay because they are expected to help onsite. Jackie then asked if there was any honorarium for any of the presenters. Marta said that the only presenters who get paid are a few of the major keynote speakers. Most presenters don't expect pay, because it is part of their job. Plus, they get a free registration. Sarah P. then asked if the Summit has always been in Pierre. Marta explained that it hasn't always been in Pierre, it has been in Rapid City and Chamberlain as well. She stated that Pierre has always been a central location that could easily house the event. It would be up to the council to decide where the Summit is held. It can be subject to change location if the IEAC sees fit. However, there are existing contracts that would keep the event in Pierre for the next couple years. Plus, the event evaluations indicate that people like the central location of Pierre. Marta commented that DOE and DTR appreciate any input from IEAC when getting ready for the Summit.

Then, she read a very nice heart harming email from one of the original individuals in the Paraprofessional Scholarship Program. Marta said, these individuals are the reason we have this program in the first place--to assist more paraprofessionals to become full-fledged teachers in their communities.

By-Laws: (see handout) Marta explained that the grey highlighted areas on the By-Laws handout indicate proposed changes made to the by-laws. Sec. Flute encouraged the IEAC to go through the handout line by line to discuss these changes. The first changes are in Article II, III, IV, and VI and are mainly name changes from DOE to DTR and from Sec. of Education to Sec. of Tribal Relations as well as adding the word "standards" in Articles II, III, and IV. In Article III part 1, the second line has been changed to "of the State who are educators of American Indian students" as the Council spoke about in a previous meeting. In line four, the word "are" has replaced "shall be" and "or entities" was added. Sarah P. then asked if the number of council members is capped at twenty-one. Marta said no, but it would be nice if we had twenty-one members. Sec. Flute then suggested in Article III part 1 line four, that we change "or entities" to "or Tribal Council." Sarah P. asked the question of how we represent people from Rapid City or Sioux Falls for example, who are not tribal entities. From there, the council decided to move more towards "other entities as referenced in Article 3-2." All were in agreement. Sec. Flute then pointed out that there will be a thirty (30) day notice sent out to all council members about the proposed amended provisions as mentioned in Article VI. He also pointed out that thirty (30) days will have passed before the next meeting. Jackie then raised a question of what the title actually is in the code. Marta and Sec. Flute stated that Cal would look up the title in SDCL 13-1-47. Sec. Flute said he would make sure to get these proposed amendments posted before the July 12, 2019 meeting. Jackie stated that the council should have copies of the code for the next meeting. All were in agreement.

Dave Archambault Sr. "Transforming Indian Schooling": Dave A. began by stating that transforming Indian education starts with The Cloud of Unknowing and the Great Mysterious. Dave A. has a sister who went to school to become a Franciscan Nun. In school, she learned how to read scripture in Latin and other root languages. This school and church were part of the "Cloud of Unknowing." The "Great Mysterious" refers to the sun (Wi), the rock (Inyan), Mother Earth (Maka), and the energy (Skun). This philosophy deals with the Lakota-Dakota-Nakota creation story, and all peoples throughout creation have some version of a creation story in their philosophy. Dave A. then spoke about James R. Walker, who was a physician in at the turn of the 19th century, who studied Lakota people. Walker wrote a book that serves as a record of Lakota-Dakota-Nakota Philosophy. In his book, he notes "Taku Skan Skan," translates to "something is moving." Next is "Taku Wakan," which is "whatever is moving is sacred." Lastly, "Wakan Takan," which means "the great sacredness is moving in everything that is," or "we are all related." Dave A. went on to say that each person has an aura or emotional, mental, and spiritual levels that accommodate personal creativity. Also, every living thing as "skun" or moving energy, and it is through this energy that we are all related. Because we are all related, we must respect each other's opinions in order to achieve heightened education.

Dave A. spoke of his friend and Lakota philosopher, Birgill Kills Straight, who said there was a unique power that every power has called "Nagi." This power comes from each person's

parents, and their parents' parents, as Dave put it. One must be respectful and mindful of those relatives and teachers who gave each person "Nagi." Our schooling needs to help guide the "Nagi." This is what schooling is lacking, said Dave. Dave went on to mention other influencers of this ideology such as Pete Catches, Frank Kills Crow, Art Amiotte, and Matthew King. These people wrote books that give useful insight into understanding Lakota Philosophy and education.

Another individual Dave A. spoke of was Maria Montessori. Maria believed, each child possesses a special sensitivity that leads one to observe and absorb everything around them. This is committed by virtue of an unconscious power. Dave A. said, if we are going to fix this issue of Indian schooling, we need make some changes within the system in order to reach full educational potential. In many ways, there is more to education than just learning Math, Reading, and Writing at specific times of the day. Maria felt that there is a "beginning, middle, and end" approach to learning. Children should be able to harness their own critical thinking skills and find the beginning, middle, and end of each task they wish to complete. Students need to be given the freedom to learn about the subjects which interest them rather than being told exactly what they are going to learn about at a given moment. These types of objectives can be achieved through project base learning, which can feed productivity. In project-based learning, each student can choose what they are going to work on that day. Students are allowed to work in groups to complete one common goal. This instills organic student involvement, team work, productivity, diversity, and integration, said Dave. He feels the current K-12 system enforces hierarchy, institutionalism, bullying, as well as low graduation rates.

Dave A. feels it is our job as South Dakotans to see the idea of project-based learning though. These goals can be met through (1) Intelligence (2) Thought/Philosophy (3) Peace and (4) Methodology. We have seen progress in North Dakota on this front though HB 1464 and 1228, which were both unfortunately killed in the North Dakota Senate. These bills would help to set forth some of the ideology set forth through project-based learning as well as charter schools. Dave stated that charter schools are usually considered undesirable by many. Dave feels that charter schools, however undesirable, may have their place for certain groups of people. And the important thing to remember in the case of ND is although it didn't pass, some are still thinking about it and considering it. Ben Jones then asked what makes charter schools attractive? Dave then answered by using the Ethiopian demographic in Minneapolis, MN as an example. These types of schools have been beneficial for this group specifically. So ideally, maybe something along these lines could work for Native American population. We must be open minded to try something new, since the current system obviously has extensive issues. Dave A. feels South Dakotans should advocate for change. He closed in saying, transforming Indian education is a big job and one individual cannot go at it alone. Jacki then asked what is stopping schools from embracing these ideas? Dave A. said, money, time, and training are the main obstacles.

Other: Laura mentioned that DOE is currently working on a new Career and Technical Education Plan, which is similar to ESSA. She is looking to discuss what DOE feels should guide technical career education as well as hear any insight the council may have to offer. She is looking to present to the council about this program at the next meeting on July 12, 2019. Sec. Flute encouraged the council to add Laura to the next meeting.

Sarah P. asked if new advisory council members were recommended, would one submit them in writing to Sec. Flute or to the IEAC? And If we vacate our current professional position and go to a new position, do we remain on the council, or do we have to obtain permission to remain on the council? Sec Flute. Suggested we take everyone’s email and make recommendations to the council about this question. Sec. also said, as a council, we need to be reaching out and looking to get representation from each tribe at this council.

Public Comments: None.

Next Meeting July 12, 2019 in Sioux Falls: 1:00-4:30 p.m. CST in Sioux Falls, SD. Meeting room to be determined.

Prayer and closing: Dave A. provided a prayer, and Sec. Flute thanked everyone for their participation and attendance.

Respectfully submitted by
Cal Reeves

Dave Flute, Secretary of Tribal Relations

Date

Dr. Ben Jones, Interim Secretary of Education

Date