

WSNAEAC Meeting
 Minutes

2:00–5:00 pm
 April 5, 2023
 In-person | Zoom

Attendee List					
1	Anna Armstrong	2	Binah McCloud—Absent	3	Cindy Kelly
4	Cynthia Savini	5	Else Washines	6	Gail Morris
7	Jarrod Da—Excused	8	Jennifer LeBret	9	Jerad Keepp—Absent
10	Jeremy Rouse—Absent	11	Joseph Martin	12	Lolita Ceja
13	Michelle Parkin	14	Patsy Whitefoot	15	Sally Brownfield
16	Sara Marie Ortiz	17	Sonia Barry	18	Tamika LaMere—Absent
19	Zenitha Jimicum	20	Zoe Higheagle Strong	21	Bernie Thomas—ONE
22	Joan Banker—ONE (traveling)	23	Kari Tally—ONE	24	Maxine Alex—ONE
25	Mona Halcomb—ONE	26	Rebecca Purser—ONE	27	Shandy Abrahamson—ONE

2:00pm—Sign In

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85707500614>

2:05pm—Welcome & Introductions

- Patsy gives blessing

2:39pm—Actions

Roll Call

- Affirmation of quorum established, and attendance noted.

Approval of Agenda

- Proposed change to agenda to increase the length of meeting until 6pm today and finish at noon tomorrow to accommodate travelers.
- Motion made by Cindy.
- Seconded by Patsy.
- Committee unanimously approves amended agenda.

Approval of March 7 Meeting Minutes

- Review of minutes.
- Motion to approve minutes made by Else
- Motion seconded by Lola. Zoe abstained.
- Committee unanimously approves minutes.

3:15pm—Unfinished Business

STI Curriculum Training (East, West)

Bernie Thomas Gives Updates

- The legislature has been considering HB 1332 for districts to establish a reporting timeframe

for Fall 2024.

- Tribes to establish communications with School Districts.
- Additional funding requested to cover expiring ESSER positions.
- Outcome is unknown at this stage.
- ESSER funds expire June 30, 2023.
- Prepare reparations among the STI schools.
- STI Training plans:
 - Training facilitated by Kayla (Western region) and Shandy (Eastern) between now and when the new assistant director is hired.
 - We don't know if there are any training requests.
 - Suggest Bernie touch base with Laura Lynn since no districts have set up STI training.
 - Suggest Zoom option availability for those who cannot travel.
 - Suggest OSPI (Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction) re-evaluate the travel policy regarding STI training and rural communities.
 - Teachers need to have access to training.
 - University options for training:
 - Send schedule out to all members so it can be shared to the schools.
 - Joan had put out a call to train the trainers
 - One day to train school districts, after hours, University model.

ONE/WSNAEAC G2G Training in Toppenish

Maxine Alex Gives Updates

- Lola and Max organized G2G (Government-to-Government) training on March 31st (unofficial session):
 - 29 administrators, 12 PESB, 125 teachers attended.
 - Going through feedback to look at some areas admins want to see more of and tailor around Tribal area homelands tribal areas.
- Survey was abridged version of training of principals (3 hours).
 - 44% were very satisfied
 - 44% were satisfied
 - 6.3% dissatisfied
 - 6.3% neutral
- Survey asked what other topics they would be interested in:
 - Understanding how to connect with Native American families;
 - How to ensure count of all students;
 - More ideas in utilizing funding;
 - Curriculum ideas for professional development.
- Attendees were asked if they were happy with the information presented in the lesson:
 - 56% agreed, 13% wanted more.
- Observation: Administrator demographic was all non-native people.
- Max confirms this was not an official training but a dry run.
- Recertification isn't until July 2023; so, they have time to offer feedback on likes/dislikes.
- Else: This is the initial version, not necessarily abridged, and we have to give tribes the time

and option of taking leadership, as this collaborative process is the responsibility of the tribe not just the state.

Reorganizing Subcommittee

K-12, STI, CTE, Higher Ed, Curriculum & Assessment

- SEL (Social, Emotional Learning) contractor communication is a major issue, positions consistent of other aspects of work.
- Haven't seen them much at subcommittee meetings.
- Bernie reminds us that we didn't need to amend their contracts, only to request they make their appearance at meetings.
- Mona supports both contractors (Arlie Neskahi and Jenny Serpa) and speaks about the contract extension:
 - If they were amended to extend the date, by the time the amendments were approved, the contract would be over.
 - We were waiting for subcommittee meetings to be scheduled and then Mona would ask them to attend those meetings.
 - Contractor schedules are very complicated, so scheduling is tough.
- Mona answers questions about the data subcommittee:
 - Mona was assigned to both contracts after Laura left.
 - Prior to Laura's departure, we were meeting weekly with the data team.
 - Rachel Buckle has taken another position in OSPI and is no longer part of that team.
 - We were waiting for the new Executive Director and Assistant Director to be hired before planning regular data subcommittee meetings.
 - Mona was asked to send a report to Jen about the changes.
- The Committee needs to be informed of OSPI changes, such as the Data position being vacated (Rachel) and contractor status.
- Put SEL on hold until the contractor provides update, then develop initiative.
 - Are there other subcommittees we need to table?
- Mona reminds the committee about Arlie's and Jenny's training dates and locations and will prepare an overview of both projects.
- Elese reminds us to focus on the current agenda item (K-12, STI, CTE, Higher Ed, Curriculum & Assessment).
 - Committee agrees to split the subcommittee.
 - Created 3 additional committees:
 - Early Learning
 - K-12
 - Post Secondary
 - Curriculum/Assessment, CTE, STI are components of all three.
- Motion to split made by Elese
- Seconded by Cindy
- Motion carries unanimously.
- Bylaws, section 9: Memo to supt. Reykdal of creation of subcommittees

- Lola will write up the memo from the template

Introducing Subcommittees for Sign Ups

Assigning of Subcommittees

- Recommended to table the SEL subcommittee discussion until new positions are hired.
- Subcommittee: Legislative/Government to Government OSPI-Tribal Consultation Policy
 - Suggested to change title to Legislative as high priority for its own and G2G, Tribal Consultation as another.
- Patsy remains lead of Bylaws subcommittee
- Michelle points out that her district received a letter from Supt. Reykdal indicating the legislature is freezing up the last of the ESSER funds that OSPI had held over.
 - Asks: What was it earmarked for through OSPI?
 - Has the legislature taken this money back from OSPI?
 - Bernie responds
 - Chris Reykdal is aware that OSPI is being blamed by the legislature for a variety of proposed bills that continue obligation of OSPI and ONE.
 - If any bill gets enacted, OSPI and ONE (Office of Native Education) are still obligated to fulfill the legal requirements, yet we don't have the resources to proceed.
 - We are currently looking for funding for three positions beyond June 30:
 - Data Analyst
 - Educator Cultivation
 - Tribal Language Liaison
 - Reykdal informs us that the employees in the above three positions should start making alternative employment decisions.
- Is there a plan to support the work that ONE is doing? If they're removing positions, how are we supposed to get the work done?
 - Bernie: This is a question for the WSNAEAC members to advocate right now for ONE.
 - Representative Lekanoff and our friends on the House side are advocating but the Senate side is lacking in support.
 - One thing to note is that whenever STI comes up for a committee vote, it's almost unanimously supported.
- The committee discusses the timeline of Federal funding and support
 - Will there be an extension to implement plans and spend the money or will they take it back?
 - There are two different pots of money: ESSER 2 and ESSER 3
 - Deadline was August or 2022 that was missed
- Under ESSER, there are Federal and State, and state is being funded
- Suggest the Committee write a letter to Superintendent Reykdal
- Michelle explains:

- There is still 18 months remaining of the ESSER 3 monies.
- Confusion is at the legislative level with lack of understanding of how the Feds allocated money directly to the states so it could be allocated to the different agencies.
- They are on track for spending the funds by the deadline of September 30, 2024.
- It's the state ESSER funding that is being recalled.
- Three ONE positions are state-funded, thus will not be funded after June 2023.
- Jen: Since they were in provisos, can we ask Veronica to figure out how to fund them?
 - Bernie suggests the request come directly from the Committee.
- Patsy suggests we create a fiscal subcommittee.
- Sally: We need to say who is doing what regardless of staff. When OSPI doesn't allocate funding, it goes inactive. Positions don't go away, they're just not funded and filled. We need to find a way to assert that.
- Michelle: 10% ESSER 3 would have funded those positions; we need to write a letter to legislature now and will reach out to council.
- Jen: Should we vote to write a letter of support for this committee?
- Elsee reminds that the current agenda is assigning of subcommittees and ONE liaisons
 - While members should be thinking of which subcommittee they want to be on, we need to also think about our ONE liaisons.
 - Superintendent Reykdal's letter to protect funds from reallocation mentioned only nine subcategories, but none represent our work.
 - Our letter we have to write should include wording to advocate through our Tribal leaders for positions specific to ONE.
 - Titles of positions, bullet points of what positions do, why they're important
 - Status of proviso positions (only when funds are available)
 - Positions under proviso: When contracts expire, they still exist but don't get funded.
- Goal in the letter is to pay attention to Native education critical issues.
 - Put under New Business with a motion.
- Reorganization of subcommittees actions:
 - Cindy logs changes and additions on paper copy
 - Based on member position; figure out who represents what and put them there.
 - Concerns of monitoring fiscal aspects of our work; legislative allocations for distribution.
 - Assign members/leads to the three newly created subcommittees (EL, K-12, Post Secondary)

4:45pm—Bio Break

5:00pm—Unfinished Business (continued)

- Jen informs we will save the new business until tomorrow.
- Cindy recaps subcommittees (*Note: all confirmed reassignments are listed below though not all are mentioned during this meeting*):
 - Bylaws Subcommittee:
 - Patsy (lead), Cindy, Anna, Jen, Jeremy, Lola
 - Government-to-Government Relations (G2G):
 - Cindy (lead), Anna, Sarah Marie, Jarrod, Sally, Patsy, Michelle, Gail, Binah, Jerad, Lola
 - Data Policy & Practices:
 - Elsee (lead), Patsy, Joseph, Gail, Cindy
 - Social Emotional Development & Learning (SEL):
 - Zoe, Jen, Michelle, Patsy (lead)
 - Early Learning (STI, CTE, Curriculum & Assessment):
 - Cynthia (lead), Jen, Sally
 - K–12 Education (STI, CTE, Curriculum & Assessment):
 - Lola (lead, Zenitha, Sonia, Sara Marie, Joseph, Cindy, Tamika, Jarrod
 - Post Secondary (STI, CTE, Curriculum & Assessment):
 - Zoe (lead), Elsee, Jeremy
 - Legislative subcommittee will be on its own.
- Lola will submit a letter to Supt. Reykdal with all changes.
- Motion to send letter to support three ESSER funded positions as outlined in our Bylaws, and goals of the subcommittee made by Cindy.
- Seconded by Zoe.
- Two separate letters: ONE Staff and Contractors
- All in favor; motion carries unanimously.

Member Norms from Bylaws

- Elsee recites meeting norm from Section IV.
 - *"Failure on the part of any Committee member to attend two consecutive Committee meetings without notification of their inability to attend, will constitute resignation from the Advisory Committee."*
 - Not informing the Committee of one's absence twice in a row constitutes automatic resignation.
 - This affects our quorum and our ability to do our work.
 - Confusion lies with communication and perhaps they did contact someone from ONE but the Executive Secretary wasn't made aware of the absence.
 - From this point on carry this bylaw forward and enforce.
 - Contact Chair or Executive Secretary?

- Kari is willing to receive attendance confirmations and communicate to the Chair.
- Meeting frequency discussion:
 - Commitment started at twice per year but increased to nearly once per month.
 - Bylaws state Committee is to meet four times per year (rotate by region)
- Members request access to Bylaws.
 - Kari explains they are posted on the [OSPI WSNAEAC website](#)
- New members/members aren't aware of all the new ONE positions and ask for clarity.
- Introductions of ONE staff were made to clarify roles:
 - Kari Tally: Administrative Assistant to the Interim Executive Director
 - Maxine Alex: Tribal Consultation Program Supervisor
 - G2G Training
 - Maxine's Administrative Assistant is Emme Williamson
 - Rebecca Purser: Native Educator Cultivation Program Supervisor
 - ESSER-funded position through [House Bill 1139](#).
 - Six advisory position contracts
 - \$750,000 in grant opportunities
 - Rachel was our data analyst
 - Mona Halcomb: Native Student Success Program Supervisor
 - Attendance and Engagement grant
 - Supports STEC schools
 - Reading/scoring outdoor grants
 - Support Arlie's and Jenny's positions
 - Internal culturally sensitive work
 - In process of writing a family toolkit
 - Coordinates legislative bills
 - Finishing dissertation
- Next meeting would be end of June if following Bylaws, and in another region.
- The Executive Committee should be a subcommittee
- It would be helpful to know who is permanent, contracted, temporary, etc.
 - Need list of staff members and their functions and end dates if any.
 - Put this on the Recruitment agenda item.

Hiring Updates

- Executive Director position:
 - Two candidates move forward to a public forum Monday at 4pm.
 - 19 applicants were first screened by OSPI, then four were interviewed.
 - The Committee had two representatives present for interviews.
 - Anna feels questions were applicable to the position and kept a lens on important Tribal aspects.

- Committee voices concerns of screening out eligible applicants in the past even though they had all qualifications and criteria.
- What were relevant questions asked? Experience with STI, Tribal Sovereignty, relationships with WA tribes, etc.
 - We do not have access to the questions due to public disclosure agreement.
- First screening was done by Veronica and Joan.
- Second screening (interviews): Veronica, Joan, Kayla, Elese, Anna.
- Did all applicants get asked the same questions? Yes
- Is there a way we can submit specific questions to the applicants in second interviews?
 - Invitations already went out for the community forum.
- How much time is allowed for conversation?
- Veronica sent email to ONE/Jen for community interviews, April 10.
- We shouldn't label as Community Forum as it could have gone out to ATNI, etc.
- We need to be diligent about pressing them to readvertise if there are no qualified Native applicants.
- There is an ongoing impact of cultural oppression and we're all caught in the chaos; so communication between the advisory and ONE is critical. Be mindful when being the lone minority in the room.
- Jen has conversations with Veronica that don't make it up to the Supt.
- Kari will email the Executive Director job description to the group.
- Assistant Director position:
 - Past meeting minutes state the advisory asked this position should be hired together with the Executive Director.
- Michelle feels a point of contention with interview panel that Tribal representatives see different perspectives of OSPI panel.
- We need a letter that can speak to the positive aspects:
 - In honoring G2G relationship, we are requesting that Tribal education be a part of the process. We need to be at the bottom to the top of vetting every applicant. We need hiring standards to ensure our Tribal communities are given the best representation of educational opportunities. We need to be a part of every ONE position that is open from start to finish.
- Cynthia is concerned about interactions of the Superintendent not being part of the hiring process, especially when there are bills involved in this.
 - Can we include in the letter, we need equal involvement in creating and asking the interview questions?
- Mona recommends the Bylaws have statement on the hiring process. Among all the changes, at least the bylaws remain in place.

- Zoe thinks the letter is helpful, but we should have this discussion with Supt. Reykdal directly in the next advisement session. He should come to us for consultation, not us going to him.
 - Cite the state bills and consider key component of consultation.
 - Refer to bills, formal policy on Tribal language.
- Motion to create letter to the Superintendent but discuss specifics tomorrow.
- Motion carries unanimously.

6:29pm—Meeting Adjourned

- Motion to adjourn made by Cindy.
- Motion seconded by Sally
- Motion carried and meeting adjourned.

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