

Minutes
Washington State Native American Education Advisory Committee
March 11, 2020 (via ZOOM)

Present:

Jen LeBret
Dorothy Apple
Anna Armstrong
Buddy Bear
Sally Brownfield
Joe Davalos
Cindy Kelly
Jennifer LeBret
Else Washines

Not able to participate:

Joel Boyd
Joseph Martin (sent notice)
Pam Austin
David Littleton
Thomas Strong
Jeremy Rouse
Jarrod Da
Zoe Higheagle Strong

Other Participants:

Laura Lynn, ONE/OSPI
Gayle Pauley, Assistant Superintendent, OSPI
Joan Banker, ONE/OSPI
Jon Claymore, ONE/OSPI

A quorum was declared and Jennifer LeBret, WSNAEAC Chair, called the meeting to order.

Jon Claymore, Director, Office of Native Education, introduced himself to the Committee.

Agenda

Cindy moved to accept the 3/11/20 WSNAEAC meeting agenda. Sally seconded. Motion carried.

January 15, 2020 Minutes

Anna asked that her name be added to those present at the January 15 WSNAEAC meeting minutes. Cindy moved the January 15, 2020 WSNAEAC meeting minutes be approved with that revision. Buddy seconded. Motion carried.

Legislation Overview – Laura Lynn

The Legislature is still in session and most of the action through the different committees have been completed. There are still opportunities and work in the next few days for moving bills. March 15 is the final day this legislative session.

6262

Because of issues the House committee responsible for this legislation was facing, this bill and others did not have any action or hearings. We have another opportunity to introduce in the next session.

6263

Did pass and we can work with WSSDA, TLC and ONE to strengthen relations in support of Native learners.

6264

To develop government to government trainings did not move forward but there was a budget proviso to develop the training and schedule with those partners. Work would be complete by 2022.

2551

The "right to wear tribal regalia did pass. Waiting for the Governor to sign.

5607

Provides resources for the continuation of the Dual Language Grant. Additional resources have been provided through a proviso for additional indigenous language programs to serve Native students. Did not complete its process and the implication is that there are not resources for technical assistance which is needed to complete the work. We will work with Patty Finnegan to see how we can support this work until we can reintroduce into legislative process in next session.

6465 No action taken.

5572

Did pass. This bill relates to the modernization grant for small schools and tribal compact schools were named in the legislation.

Native Votes Bill:

Patsy said that the work taking place on voting and redistricting has been ongoing and focuses on census, how districts are formed, and redistricting. Will continue creating

partnerships with other organizations, Native legislators, higher education, etc. Even though it didn't pass this year, will introduce in 2021.

Region 16 Comprehensive Center

The Washington State service plan has been submitted. As you review the plan, you will see it is designed to identify areas of focus and we are working through transitions during the next few months. First phase ends June 30. Additional feedback will be forthcoming. Alaska and Oregon are also part of the R16CC service area.

WSNAEAC members Sally and Patsy are also on R16CC's advisory committee. Also recognized as R16 Advisory Committee members were: Mary Wilber, Title VI Indian Education Program Director for Lake Washington, Northshore and Bothel School Districts; Dr. Anthony Craig, currently professor with leadership programs with UW and educational leader in K-12 and Native education; and Larry Francious with ESD 189. Superintendent Reykdal has designated Michaela Miller, Deputy Superintendent, to represent OSPI.

Patsy said it was very apparent to her that the writing wasn't getting into the roles of tribal education through self-determination so wants to highlight the work which has been going on over many years in Native communities and the work of parents. The role of parent advisory committees was also not commented on.

Patsy also noted that there was a recommendation to improve the attendance of Native students but it didn't include outreach to families and retaining students in the schools. The way Native education is funded throughout the US, the funds are supplemental resources so the lions share of education of our kids lands on the local school districts. We need to continue to clarify what our goals and intentions are.

Cindy said we need to identify the system indicators: core funding, who is educating our students in schools/communities. The plan recognizes the need for deep tribal consultation to develop a viable plan.

Right to Wear Tribal Regalia Act

Sent out the letter regarding Native students right to wear tribal regalia to graduation and other honoring events along with this meeting's invitation. At the January meeting WSNAEAC was asked to send forward language for the graduation letter for Superintendent Reykdal. That draft was brought forward and that was the foundation

for the final. It was sent out in January to all district and educational service district superintendents, district principals and school counselors.

Anna said that this was discussed in a meeting of the Columbia Plateau Indigenous Peoples' Alliance before the regalia bill had come forward. The letter to districts is sent out at the end of school year, but it should come out at the beginning. Cusick School District has been good about recognizing the importance of respecting Native students within graduation ceremonies. We have been adhering to their way of doing things so now we are asking to be able to celebrate this time in our childrens' lives in our own way rather than someone else's standard.

Sally expects that in the light of these bills passing into law, WSSDA and OSPI would work on a recommended policy for every district relating to wearing regalia at school district ceremonies. She hopes that OSPI's letter and WSSDA policies would use stronger language and embrace and honor rather than "allowing."

Cindy said that districts also need to make sure this is included in the MOU with tribes.

Jen stated that parents and families in Native communities need to receive this information as well.

Gayle said that the process in the agency is generally to send out a bulletin and this outreach goes far beyond district/ESD superintendents. The bulletin will state that this is the law for everyone to follow. A bulletin could be sent out early in the school year to districts and tribes, and again in the spring as a reminder.

Patsy made a motion to send a letter to Debra Lekanoff and to the committee she worked with on this legislation thanking them for sponsoring the right to wear tribal regalia bill. Cindy seconded. Buddy asked for contact information so each WSNAEAC member could thank her individually if they wished. Motion carried. Patsy will develop a draft thank you letter to send to committee for input.

Consolidated Program Reviews

Joe asked if ONE has any information around CPR updates and also STI implementation.

Laura said OSPI currently in the process of conducting CPR visits. In addition to the CPR review, we are also monitoring affirmation of tribal consultation in districts that are required through ESSA as well as implementation of STI. We are asking for evidence of

tribal consultation along with the district's timeline for the adoption of social studies curriculum and their plans for STI implementation. This year 16 of the 38 districts that we are monitoring are being monitored through CPR. We have started the planning process; and as part of the monitoring, ONE has been reaching out to the tribal leaders and their designees who have signed affirming consultation to inform them about these monitoring visits. ONE will soon be issuing the assurances form/letter and beginning this process again for the 2020-21 school year. Each year we request a list of districts receiving \$40,000 or more of Title VI Indian Education Formula Grant funds and a current list of districts having 50% or more Native student enrollment to compile our list of districts required to complete tribal consultation. We send out a notice to affected tribal and district leaders, tribal education directors and Title VI Program coordinators. We emphasize that it is not the responsibility of the Title VI coordinators to lead this consultation but they should be aware of it and hopefully involved. The collaboration is to occur as districts are developing their title plans.

Joe asked how to determine if districts located in tribal usual and customary lands but don't meet the criteria for tribal consultation are implementing STI and updating Social Studies curriculums. This was one of the intents of 6262 to develop a monitoring system to answer this question. School boards should be asking their district staff how they are implementing STI and if consultation with tribes is taking place. How is WSSDA involved?

Laura said that WSSDA has formed a government to government task force which has been active for the past year. ONE is putting together a spread sheet identifying those districts whose staff have participated in ONE sponsored STI trainings and training of trainer workshops. WSSDA put out a survey to all 295 districts to ask where they are at in their STI implementation and tribal consultation—41 responded.

Meeting adjourned.