

WSNAEAC Meeting Minutes

2:30–4:00 pm
 March 7, 2023
 Zoom

Attendee List					
1	Anna Armstrong	2	Binah McCloud—Absent	3	Cindy Kelly
4	Cynthia Savini—Excused	5	Else Washines	6	Gail Morris
7	Jarrold Da	8	Jennifer LeBret	9	Jerad Koepp
10	Jeremy Rouse—Absent	11	Joseph Martin	12	Lolita Ceja
13	Michelle Parkin	14	Patsy Whitefoot	15	Sally Brownfield
16	Sara Marie Ortiz—Excused	17	Sonia Barry—Absent	18	Tamika LaMere
19	Zenitha Jimicum—Excused	20	Zoe Higheagle Strong—Absent	21	Bernie Thomas—ONE
22	Joan Banker—ONE	23	Kari Tally—ONE	24	Maxine Alex—ONE
25	Mona Halcomb—ONE	26	Rachel Buckle—ONE	27	Rebecca Purser—ONE
28	Shandy Abrahamson—ONE	29		30	

2:30pm—Sign In

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81272474427>

2:37pm—Welcome & Introductions

Roll Call

- Affirmation of quorum established, and attendance noted.
- Members share stories and how they're coming in.
- Patsy gives blessing in song.

2:50pm—Actions

Approval of Agenda

- Motion to approve agenda made by Patsy.
- Anna moves to add to agenda:
 - Updates on ONE staff and funding.
 - WSSDA STECs follow up.
- Motion seconded by Cindy.
- Committee unanimously approves amended agenda.

Approval of February 8 Meeting Minutes

- Motion to approve minutes made by Cindy.
- Joseph noted the year was incorrect.
 - Kari corrected to reflect 2023.
- Motion seconded by Patsy.
- Committee unanimously approves minutes, with year corrected.

2:55pm—ONE Updates from Bernie

Legislative/Budget Update

Bernie Thomas Gives Updates

- Bernie renewed with White House over last couple weeks, will meet with soon.
 - 1st piece: Financial support for Tribal language revitalization
 - 2nd piece: Language immersion schools to better inform Tribal culture:
 - Secretary Cardona and Secretary of Interior are in favor.
 - Estimate 3.5 billion for capital construction.
 - Figure out how to get support from OSPI and the legislature.
 - Incorporate treaty rights related to outdoor ed. into our request.
 - Bernie met with UW about incorporating language into cohorts—by Tribal language type—for early learning.
 - Utilize the Steve Ballmer 38 million dollar grant through UW.
 - Centennial Accord: Centralize Tribal languages into everything we do.
- Legislature indicated anything with money consequence would most likely get killed.
- 1332: Tribal sovereignty/STI curriculum/G2G trainings for certification:
 - OSPI is designated to develop reports and MOUs with public schools.
 - Need state to fund liaisons in public schools and Tribes.
 - Implication of additional money would have killed this bill, so pulled it back.
 - Pushed to 2024 for reimplementation.
 - Talk of adding one million back in.
- Santos, Wellman, Lekanoff will be meeting to unfold budget consequence of bills.
- One million more will allow us to pay our ESSER positions which expire June 30, 2023.
- Get waivers to overcome requirement obstacles (e.g., what constitutes a school day/year or graduation requirements).
 - Budgetary consequence, though not significant.
 - Leverage WSNAEAC to extend, receive input/feedback from Tribal nations.
 - Been long since Superintendent Reykdal had consultation with Indian nations.
- Bills which support teacher residency.

Maxine Alex Gives Updates

- Maxine has been attending the in-person Legislative Planning Meetings on Thursdays and updating the legislative subcommittee every Friday.
- 1338: STI bill has moved forward, look for proviso within budget.
- 1228: Tribal language and Multilingual bill:
 - Not a lot of support due to big financial ask but look for when budget comes out; will be in grants vs funding entire project.
- 1711: Companion bill with 5689, heard March 9th; sign up to testify.
- Max will forward spreadsheet to Kari to share out (updated every Friday) and will send Friday's legislative meeting link to committee.

ONE Executive Director Hiring Update

Jen LeBret Reads Veronica's Updates

- Received [20] 19 applicants; began screening process; position open until filled; interviews anticipated for early April.
- Initial interviews will be conducted by two WSNAEAC executive committee members and OSPI/ONE staff.
- Applications are screened by Joan and Veronica.
 - Some are in state, some out of state, and from different backgrounds
 - Screening is based on qualifications/criteria set by the agency
 - Joan sends her recommendations to Veronica
- Jen will send the list to the committee
- Else suggests applicants who aren't selected for interviews apply for Assistant Director.
 - Joan agrees and will share this with Veronica.
 - Assistant Director position hasn't been posted yet—is currently in HR's possession.
- Anna conveys concern that the committee was not involved in past hiring processes.
- Executive committee wants an appointment with Veronica before she makes any decisions, that someone from the Executive committee should be appointed.
 - Michelle says often times paper applications don't give a true story of the applicant; transparency is critical to stabilize longtime relationships.
 - Jen will contact Veronica that Executive Committee requests a meeting to discuss being on the screening and hiring process before any action is taken.
 - Let this be stated in the minutes—no motion necessary.
- Finalization of Assistant Director and goal to complete end of the week.
 - Veronica will provide updates once approved by Executive team (with HR).
 - WSNAEAC wanted both positions released at the same time.
 - Veronica delayed so that the Assistant Director could be hired by the Executive Director (once they're hired).
 - Else expresses this was a mistake due to the heavy workload assumed by the new Executive Director.

Non-agenda Items Discussed

Jen Asks Committee for Additions to Agenda

- District letter on policy of students wearing regalia for graduation and other events.
 - Can this be sent out earlier?
 - Some school districts don't know about it.
 - Let Tribal education directors, school equity officers, advisors know.
 - Joan shares a situation at Ephrata School District where a student was not allowed to wear their regalia last June and was told by the district that they would "rip it off of her" if she tried.
 - Joan sent the school district the RCW and Bulletin that came out last year so sending something out for this year is on our list.
 - Kari will ensure updated bulletin is sent soon.

Jen Reads Veronica's Email Regarding School Improvement

- As a result of the Department of Education Federal Audit we are required to include more schools and school classification as tier 3 classification.
 - Federal and State funds will not increase.
 - School and district staff will be notified by March 14 if they keep their tier, move up or down, or exit out.
- A bulletin was sent out to districts in January; Supt. Reykdal shared key points in February statewide Zoom meeting:
 - Per SBE's requirement, OSPI is restarting the accountability system, aka Washington State Improvement Framework (WSIF), in Spring 2023; originally launched 2018, when some schools were identified for support.
 - In early March OSPI will release new round of data identifying schools for support.
 - End of February OSPI will contact districts with list of schools identified for support.
 - OSPI will host statewide webinar to help school districts and leaders to be reacquainted with WSIF.
 - OSPI has moved away from the punitive accountability system; see WSIF as opportunity to provide funding and support to schools serving students farthest from educational justice.

ONE Staff and Funding

Bernie Gives Updates on ESSER Funding

- ONE missed an August 2022 deadline to extend funding past June 2023.
- Bottom line is there won't be an extension of funds.
- Bernie is reaching out to Washington D.C. (Michael and those at White House Summit) to explore alternatives.
- Investigating our options within the agency to reorganize our budgets:
 - Locate roughly \$90K for positions which will end June 30.
 - Verify unspent dollars in other areas for potential coverage.
 - Research allowable expenses and policies.
- Cindy: We need to explain to Chris that this work will NOT continue and that we CANNOT expect our current staff to take on more responsibility, despite a missed deadline.
 - Makes a motion to bring this to Superintendent Reykdal's office.
- Bernie responds:
 - Other agency departments look at ONE as being overstaffed, yet considering the charge we have, we're not even close to where we need to be.
 - Create an impetus around charges such as centralizing tribal languages, culture and history within our state, Tribe, education, compact schools and CCW, and all the other things associated with treaty rights.
 - In May or June, we may have a better picture from the data and to also leverage our associated partners (e.g., School Districts, GOIA).
- Shandy: Regarding ESSER funding deadline (was unaware of it):
 - Dr. Laura Lynn wouldn't have missed a deadline
 - Dr. Laura was working with OSPI and Government Relations (GR) to ensure positions were to be long lasting and put into legislation.

- Discuss with Veronica that we need all positions to function, and we cannot do that without our ESSER positions.
- How is Veronica going to support our Executive Director with the resources to ensure our office is moving forward if we don't have these positions?
- Else: Unfortunately, we don't have access to Dr. Laura's e-mail or her request.
 - Our data subcommittee had supported the request for extended funding
 - Don't think we missed the deadline completely, rather we were put aside for our request or in a pile of requests on a desk.
 - If we are losing capacity, we need to plan ahead to ensure the work required by RCW is completed.
- Jen: I was told all positions are proviso except for Mona and have to be present in ONE.
- Joan: Last December, Laura worked with Patty Finnegan in Bilingual to come up with a plan to keep Kayla on after June 30 with State Dual Language funds and prepared a budget. Not sure if that went anywhere.
- Jen: This is about our kids. We have already been threatened to be dissolved if we push back on the Superintendent which is why we aren't being asked or kept in the loop on things. We don't need this Committee to push back on OSPI. We need our tribal leaders on board.
- Cindy: Voices concern about getting lip service.
 - STECs are spending a lot of money on the tribes supporting the work
 - Maxine's G2G trainings will give us a clearer picture of how people feel
 - Ultimately this is about our kids, and we need this program funded.
- Rebecca gives updates on the Educator Cultivation Program.
 - Rebecca's position will not be funded after June 30, 2023 but funding for grants and contracts will be extended.
 - Management of grants and contracts may fall onto the rest of the staff.
 - Applicants could not access the iGrants (EDS) platform to submit applications.
 - The committee needs to include these concerns in advocacy.
 - Executive summary latest data showed an increase in Native American educators from to 1.7 to 1.9 percent in the short time of this role; commends WA State Tribes.
 - Support from GR of including the extension of this program to support a Tribal governed teacher residency/prep workgroup and program implementation.
 - The remaining funds in the Cultivation Program could financially support this.
 - The change request was requesting more time not more money.
 - Disappointed to hear that OSPI took this program's remaining funding.
 - Cindy Rockholt (OSPI) stated she had submitted a request back before the August deadline, but it possibly wasn't submitted correctly.
- Maxine: A budget was sent in April to keep the data person.
 - This is one of the funding areas that OSPI was looking at moving over to another position or initiative. Can we follow up on this?
- Jen: Circling back to Cindy's motion to add a meeting with Veronica to the agenda.
 - Also see how we can get a meeting with Supt. Reykdal, with the Executive committee, if not the entire committee.

- Rachel: Can we strike this phrase from the RCW?
 - *The superintendent shall appoint an individual to be responsible for the office of Native education.*
 - Is that how they can keep placing ONE under an Assistant Superintendent?
- Cindy: At the last two centennial accord meetings at least one tribal council member has asked for consultation between the tribes and the Superintendent. It is way past due.
- Michelle: Shares article on dropout rates:
 - Lack of COVID or mental health services (among others) have caused hundreds of thousands of students to disappear from the school districts on a national level.
 - These students have not reenrolled in internet school or the like.
 - These types of services directly impact those rates when looking at Indian countries.
 - SEL is essential to keep our kids motivated and returning to the classroom.
- Michelle: OSPI is under the hotseat to identify how our ESSER dollars are spent.
 - Three states undergoing expensive audits (Michelle's district being one of them).
 - In 46 school districts the government identified millions in misspent ESSER funding.
- Else: Will talk with the Council about our lobbying efforts and will need some talking points.
- Joseph: Wants to know more about organizational structure in next meeting.
 - Feels our Executive Director should report directly to Chris Reykdal.
- Else: Reykdal would then be at the mercy of an angry council vs our diplomatic committee.
- Jen: Feels we're tokenized and that we've check their box. It's time to let him [Reykdal] know.

3:59pm—ONE Updates—ONE Staff

Subcommittee Involvement

Jen Leads Discussion on Subcommittees

- Designate who we want to see sit in on our meetings.
- Reporting back to the ONE Director is important because some of the subcommittees feel they do a lot of work but are not listened to.
- Reorganize some of the subcommittees:
 - STI K12 & Higher Ed./Early Learning/Higher Ed./CTE/Curriculum & Assessment:
 - Now that we have more members, this subcommittee can be split.
 - CTE would be in high school and higher education.
 - All the rest have curriculum and assessment components.
 - Perhaps require everyone to be on at least two committees.
 - Work out the reorganization at the in-person meeting (April 5–6)

4:06pm—Next WSNAEAC Meeting—In Person

April 5th, 2–5pm and April 6th, 9am–4pm

Legends Casino | Yakama Room | Toppenish, WA

- OSPI will reimbursement for travel, Kari will look into a Zoom option.

4:10pm—Public Comment

WSSDA Follow Up

Anna Armstrong Reads Reply from WSSDA as Follow Up to STECs Inquiry

- Tim Garchow says the RCWs that define WSSDA as a state agency state that WSSDA's membership is comprised of the Board of directors of Washington Public School Districts. It also requires these public school districts pay dues. While tribal compact schools and charter schools are public schools, they are not public school districts with school boards elected by the citizens of their community.
- Service on WSSDA's boards and other elected committees is restricted to membership in WSSDA as outlined in the RCW. Having said that, WSSDA makes all the materials, products, services, and events that they offer available to the board, tribal compact schools, and charter schools at the same prices that public school districts pay. And tribal compact schools and charter schools do not have to pay dues like the public school districts do.
 - Services that are free of charge are also free to the charter and STEC schools.
- Cindy: We looked at trying to open the law but don't know if WSSDA wants to redo it.
- Joseph: This is important to discuss in the STEC meeting.
- Elese: Asks if the BIE comes to every STEC school in WA state, or just Yakama.
 - We were told they need bylaws which will require restructuring of our Tribe.
- Joseph: Our school was prepared for an audit, but BIE canceled at last minute.
- Michelle: Circling back on Elese's mention of talking points for the Hill.
 - Suggests convening of School Directors and Tribal Leaders as another forum to equip board members and Tribal leaders with talking points that support ONE.
 - Tribal leader is going to stand up and speak about funding this program.
 - It's the closest we've come to Tribal consultation since 2019.
- Bernie feels we should have Chris do formal consultation soon.
 - Sent word a month ago but haven't heard back.
 - Tribal council should have more pull.

4:16pm—Meeting Adjourned

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