

Minutes
Washington State Native American Education Advisory Committee
September 17, 2021

In attendance

Dorothy Apple
Sally Brownfield
Anna Armstrong
Sally Brownfield
Cindy Kelly
Jennifer LeBret
Joseph Martin
Sara Marie Ortiz
Michelle Parkin
Jeremy Rouse
Else Washines
Patricia Whitefoot
Lola Ceja
Zoe Higheagle Strong

Unable to attend

Buddy Bear
Jarrod Da

Others in attendance

Laura Lynn
Shandy Abrahamson
Megan Moore
Jon Claymore
Kayla Guyett
Michelle Parkin
Jonathan Arakawa

A quorum was declared, and Jennifer LeBret, WSNAEAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:10 am.

The first part of this WSNAEAC meeting was spent welcoming our newest member Lola Ceja, from the Yakima Nation.

September agenda approval:

Motion to approve by Patricia Whitefoot, seconded by Joseph Martin.
Lola abstained as she was not previously present. The motion carried unanimously.

June minutes approval:

Motion to approve carried by Cindy, Sally Brownsfield seconded the motion.
Lola abstained as she was not previously present. The motion carried unanimously.

Review of Bylaws:

Revised motion language of by-laws

“Membership on the advisory committee is underscored by service to the broader Indian community in acknowledgement of the goal to enhance sovereign Indian nations, communities and families in uplifting the vision of our ancestors, history and culture.”

The committee decided to approve the by-laws document as a whole, instead of each individual section. Changing it to 22 members instead of 21.

Motion carried to accept the bylaws with revisions by Cindy Kelly, seconded by Patricia.

WSNAEAC elections:

The committee discussed that we count the year of covid, and to stay consistent, we vote next July. There was no opposition for holding elections of executive officers next July.

Patricia made a motion to move the elections to next year, and to continue to review it annually. Cindy seconded. The committee unanimously agreed.

WSNAEAC membership:

For current vacancies, Sally suggested that we send out letters to the different tribes as an opportunity to nominate someone to fill the position. The process of nomination is not very clear to the committee. Joan is looking into the nomination letter language.

The previous nomination letter stated:

“Statewide

Two Tribal Compact School Representative (statewide)

One Higher Education Tribal Representative (statewide)

One Pre-K/Early Childhood Representative (statewide)

One Indian Health Representative (statewide)

Ex-officio One Educational Service District Representative (statewide)

Ex-officio Representative from WSSDA/WASA/WEA/AWSP”

After looking at the letter, the positions from this letter do not match what is currently in our by-laws. The committee would have to discuss increasing membership to add these positions or replace some current positions and update the by-laws. Currently, we will need to remove the ESD and Indian Health Representative as they are not in our by-laws. The committee agreed to wait for follow up on this issue. Joan will send out the nomination letters to WSNAEAC members for feedback. The committee also agreed to remove the term “ex-officio”.

ESD conversation

- Will be added to our next agenda
- How can we bring this to our ESD's attention on lack of Native representation and what can we do to get the Native voice at the ESD level?

- ESD's would be a good starting place of the consultation training that we put together to share

Sub-Committee Updates:

SEL Sub-Committee Report Out:

- During the Circles of Reflection meeting, Mitigated the Effects of Intergenerational Trauma was funded
- Next meeting is still being determined, but Laura Lynn will come present that proposal and what action items the committee can support over the next few years
- The committee was able to schedule the next meeting for September 24, 2 pm

Laura Lynn shared on the Mitigated the Effects of Intergenerational Trauma to the WSNAEAC committee.

- Opportunity for ESSER Relief funds were received by OSPI, mitigating effects of intergenerational trauma and strengthening supports for Native Families
- Develop indigenous SEL framework for the needed adult learning in schools across the state
- Continue to strengthen and raise awareness about the effects of intergenerational trauma and to strengthen practices that enhance student resiliency as well
- Provide opportunities to convene school councilors to focus on this work
- Resources for a Project Manager to be hired in this space, also ONE is hiring a Native Student Success Program Supervisor
- Will continue to meet with the SEL committee to amplify this work
- Funding is 4.5 million dollars over the next three years

WSNAEAC Bylaws Sub-Committee:

- Previously discussed the by-laws at the beginning of the meeting so no further review during the share out

Data Sub-Committee

- Wanted to look at funding sources and data delivery, how is it evaluated? What are the outcomes?
- Will share a policy initiative that was done in the NW here
- Title VI assessments around math, ELA, science
- Definition of AI/AN students needs to be more inclusive; this is an issue our committee is focusing on with Education NW
- Continued learning is needed for State agencies such as OSPI, DCYF, Research and Data Center, etc.
- Last meeting, reviewed numbers on native education; Hispanic, non-Hispanic, and two or more races
- Also broken down into roles such as students, teachers, paraeducators, etc.
- The committee is also looking at Indian Education policies that currently exist in the NW, will look at the data
 - Definition of govt to govt status
 - State funded Indian education coordinator

- Academic standards that address native culture and history

Laura Lynn shared on AI/AN student identification and reporting

- Funded through ESSR resources to develop a training and “training a trainer: model for front office personnel
- Provide opportunities for meetings and convening with families to everyone can learn the implications within our current system to strengthen enrollment processes

Elise shared on ESD 105

- ESD 105 will be doing a presentation on their work with Yakima nation tribal schools, STI curriculum, and their partnership working on three grants to strengthen the network of education support
- Will start collecting CEDARS info on tribal affiliations of students, needed to spot check names of tribes as there was some duplication
- Next meeting is September 17, 2021 at 1 pm

Legislative Sub-Committee

- Talked about family leadership, ESD reps, interacting with the PTA, and working with Tribal parents
- Trying to get updates from GOIA around their work and the work we are doing
- WSIEA results will be shared by Laura
- Laura shared the list of legislative priorities for next year
- We are going to change 1 of 35 positions
- Title VI, some districts are dropping but some are adding so some concern there
 - statewide and at the national level, do we have access to a breakdown of Title VI budgets? Then we would be able to have an overview of how Title VI funds are spent statewide and nationwide
- WSIEA conference will be on the West side in April
- Next meeting is October 30, at 1:30
- Priority for this committee is the govt to govt relationship within school districts
 - Most native students are in public schools now so our treaties need to be honored
 - We need to engage all of our family leaders in this process, it should not be siloed, it should all be connected
 - We have videos for school districts but we should create a video for parents to show them the power they hold to make sure their children are receiving the supports they need

STI curriculum sub-committee:

- Identifying which tribes our students are affiliated with
- CTE pathways for native students
- Dual credit for high schools
- Importance of Running start
- Propose meeting for Oct 4, usually meet the first Monday at 1:30
- Committee request to meet with higher education to offer guidance for them to share out to their students
 - Will be discussed at next subcommittee meeting

ONE Updates: The Office of Native Education shared a presentation of the work we are currently doing and next steps to continue moving forward.

- Recognized Jerad Koepp as Teacher of the year, and Boo Balkan as Regional Educator of the year
- WSIEA Recognition:
 - Ivy Pete was recognized as student of the year
 - Jamie Valdadez was recognized as educator of the year
 - Shantel Whitford was recognized as Parent of the Year
- CTE updates
 - Gaming program currently in development, working on a draft curriculum
 - Wastewater management and electricians – meeting with partners and beginning relationships to start this conversation
 - How can the state help lift this up and support Native learners?
 - All of these categories will fall under the construction umbrella
 - Starting a 9th grade cohort, the graduation rate jumps to 95.2% graduation rate for all ethnicities regarding CTE
 - Shandy has a list of all Federal and State grants
 - Shandy also has a document to walk someone through the steps of starting a CTE program within the state
- STI
 - Curriculum has been translated to Spanish and uploaded onto the website
 - 6,000+ educators taking part in the training
- Tribal Consultation
 - High interest for ESDs to take place in this training
 - 11 different modules within the training
- ESSA schools
 - 37 districts, but missing 7
 - Deadline is tomorrow 9/18/21
 - All ESSR proposals are being funded!
 - Reviewing tribal language grants currently, hoping to announce awards later today
 - ONE is growing with several positions opening up, three will be posted within the next two weeks
 - Tribal Consultations Program Supervisor
 - Native Student Success Program Supervisor
 - Tribal Language Program Supervisor
- OIE Director Julian Guerrero wants to come to an upcoming WSNAEAC meeting

Agenda items for meeting with Superintendent Reykdal

- Jen requested the WSNAEAC committee send in suggestions to herself or the ONE office.

- Lola suggested being mindful of school districts that are resisting tribal consultation
 - Falls under dismantling systemic racism

There were no public comments or announcements.

Proposal to adjourn the meeting by Cindy Kelly and seconded by Sally Brownsfield. The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am.