

Nevada Indian Commission Indian Education Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

April 29th, 2021
Via ZOOM

Committee Member	Seat Filled	Present	Absent
Chair – Fawn Hunter	Washoe Tribe School District	x	
Teresa Rowe	Washoe Tribe of NV & CA Head Start	x	
Miguel Martinez	Truckee Meadows Community College	x	
Fredina Drye-Romero	Nevada Department of Education	x	
Della Frank	Clark County Department of Education Coordinator II	x	
Mary Williams	Yerington Paiute Tribe Education Director	x	

NIC Staff Present: Stacey Montooth, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission; Sari Nichols, Program Officer, Nevada Indian Commission.

Others Present: William Bauer, Professor, Graduate Coordinator Department of History, UNLV, Lynn Manning John, Vice-Principal Owyhee Combined School; Denise Tanata, Children’s Cabinet, Early Childhood Education Advisory Council

I. Invocation

Della Frank provided the invocation.

II. Welcome and Introduction

Chairwoman Hunter called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm and asked all those present to introduce themselves.

III. Initial Public Comments

Ms. Tanata said on behalf of the Early Education Advisory Council, they are looking forward to working with this committee anyway possible.

IV. Unfinished Business (For Possible Discussion and Possible Action)

A. Approval of Education Advisory Committee for American Indians and Alaskan Native Appointment of Representatives.

Sari Nichols presented three Appointment of Representative forms for approval on the Indian Education Advisory Committee (IEAC). The approval requests were for, Lance West, Principal Schurz Elementary School; Kari Emm, Director of Transfer Recruitment, University of Nevada, Reno; Cassandra Stahlke, Grant Coordinator Elko County School District.

Ms. Williams made a motion to approve all three appointments provided that they confirm that they are still interested in being active members. Ms. Frank Seconded. The motion carried.

V. New Business (For Possible Discussion and Possible Action)

A. Discussion on current bylaws

Chairwoman Hunter gave a brief history of why the committee is being asked to revise the bylaws. Ms. Williams asked for clarification on the revisions that have been made. Is the

committee being asked to approve the revision. Chairwoman Hunter clarified that the revisions presented as part of the meeting packet are what was presented to the NIC Commissioners. They did not approve them and wanted the IEAC to go over the bylaws to correct the vagueness and contradictory language. Ms. Nichols reminded the group that she sent meeting notes from the Commission meeting in which the bylaws and suggested changes were discussed. There was discussion on how to move forward on the revisions. Chairwoman Hunter asked the Committee if they wanted to establish a working group to work on the bylaws or if they wanted to be sent the document for review and make suggested changes. It was decided to share the document for review and meet at a later date to discuss possible changes.

B. Establish working group for bylaw revisions

Chairwoman Hunter combined the two items and move on to updates.

VI. Indian Education Updates

A. Nevada Department of Education (NDE), Fredina Drye-Romero, Education Programs Professional, Indian Education.

Working on Every Student Succeeds Act, Tribal Consultation between county school districts and the Tribes. The consultation process will become available on the NDE website. Gave presentations with Fawn Hunter, Washoe County School District. Working with Moapa Band of Paiutes on Title IV 21 Century after school program. Della Frank and Ms. Drye-Romero are working with the tribe on the grant application. It is open to Tribes as long as their school district has not already applied for it. Contact your school district to find out if your Tribe qualifies. The NDE is working with the Yerington, and Fort McDermitt Tribes on the Native Youth Committee project. This is a US Department of Education, Indian Education grant funded program. This is the final year for the grant. The grant has funded the Amplified Native Youth, Collage and Career series. The series is available on the NDE YouTube channel.

B. Tribal Education Programs

Mary Williams, Education Director for the Yerington Paiute Tribe (YPT) reported on a new grant Assessing Choices in Education (ACE). The grant will allow for a Paiute language class.

C. Tribal Early Childhood Education Programs

Theresa Rowe, Head Start Education Manager, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, reported that due to the pandemic they have only been able to serve half of their children. The goal now is to reconnect with all of the students and assess their needs.

D. County School District Programs

- a) Fawn Hunter, Washoe County School District, Indian Education Program Specialist, reported on this year's Paiute language bowl. The students from Reed, Spanish Springs, and N. Valley High will compete virtually this year. This year's professional development has focused on bringing families to the classroom, both in person and virtually with the goal of bringing content into the classroom. The district uses material from Ralph Burns and has had him visit. This has brought oral tradition and story telling into the classrooms. Working with end of parent advisory group on end of year grant closure. There are still Wi-Fi hotspots available for students who are still distance learning.

- b) Della Frank, Clark County School District, Coordinator II, Indian Education Department reported on her promotion to District Coordinator. She can now make decisions on new programs. Ms. Frank is working with the district to bring a Navajo language instructor to help develop a language program. Of the 600+ Native students, half are Navajo. If this program is successful, the district can build on it and offer more language programs. The district is working with PBS on a literacy program. Nellis Air Force Base continues to support the Moapa Education Support Center, helping with STEM programming. The programming will extend to the Las Vegas Urban population. Working on Native Voices project. Working on updating website with newsletter and meeting minutes. [www. Indianed.ccsd.net](http://www.Indianed.ccsd.net)
- c) Lynn Manning John, Vice Principal Owyhee Combined School reported that the school has been in virtual learning model, going to a hybrid in January 5th. Working closely with Tribal Council on reopening and using CARES Act money. The school has 17 senior this year. Worked with Tribe to acquire grant funds to offer Shoshone and Paiute language classes. The 21st Century grant will allow for classes in the after school program. Partnering with Boise State University in their “On-Ramp” program to get iPads to every student.

E. Universities & Community Colleges

- a) Miguel Martinez, Truckee Meadows Community College, reported on the American Heritage month events hosted by the college. Working with Dr. Harry and Professor Running Wolf on outreach programs. In talks to work with the Reno Sparks Indian Colony on college access and opportunities.

F. Other Indian Education Programs

VII. Committee Member comments and Announcements (For Discussion)

Sari Nichols reminded the members that the Guinn Center has webinars on Student Financial Aid 101. Fredina Drye-Romero reported on a Talking Circle coming up on June 24th. She will e-mail the information and registration information. Our Native Youth Community Project grant provides for training in mental health issues. Della Frank reported that Native American students from Touro University are visiting classrooms to talk about becoming doctors. Met with women from Native Youth Business conference about encouraging students to attend the June event.

VIII. Agenda Items for Future Meetings (For Discussion)

- A. Approval of April 29, 2021 meeting minutes
- B. Bylaw for possible action
- C. Vote on Vice Chair

IX. Scheduling and Location of Next Meeting (For Discussion)

The next meeting will be on ZOOM, May 20th, 2021 at 10:30am. This will be a work session meeting to review changes to the bylaws.

X. Final Public Comments

There were no final comments

XI. Adjournment

Ms. Hunter adjourned the meeting at 2:24pm.