

Nevada Indian Commission Indian Education Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

July 29, 2021
Via ZOOM

Committee Member	Seat Filled	Present	Absent
Chair – Fawn Hunter	Washoe Tribe School District	X	
Theresa 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 – Vice Chair	Clark County Department of Education Coordinator II	X	
Mary Williams	Yerington Paiute Tribe Education Director		X
Cassandra Stahlke	Elko School District	X	
Kari Emm	Director of Transfer Admissions and Programs UNR	X	
Lance West	Principal Schurz Elementary School		X
William Bauer	Professor of History and Program Director of Indigenous Studies UNLV	X	

NIC Staff Present: Sari Nichols, Program Officer, Nevada Indian Commission.

I. Invocation

Fredina Drye-Romero gave the invocation.

II. Welcome and Introductions

Chairwoman Hunter asked to skip introductions because this meeting was a work session and there was no one from the public in attendance.

III. Initial Public Comment

There were no public comments.

IV. Approval of June 17, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Cassandra Stahlke moved to approve the June 17, 2021 minutes with corrections. Theresa Rowe seconded. The motion passed.

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

A. Discussion on current bylaws

The Nevada Indian Commission’s Board of Commissioners had previously requested that the IEAC go through its bylaws line by line in order to clarify its mission, revise membership qualifications, expand its offices, and update ambiguous language. This meeting is the second in a series of work sessions to work on this project. Before this meeting, each member of the committee was asked to review and make remarks/suggested changes to the bylaws using Google Docs. The mark-ups were collected by Fredina Drye-Romero and used as material for this work session. The group discussed the proposed changes. Chairwoman Hunter noted the redundancy of words and phrases throughout the document. Chairwoman Hunter suggested the group look at other current Indian Education Committee bylaws as possible templates to help update the language in the IEAC bylaws. Fredina shared a similar document from Wisconsin, noting that they reflect current language and ideas. The group agreed that this document would make a good template for the IEAC bylaws. Chairwoman Hunter remarked that she liked the bullet points on the Wisconsin document as it eliminates duplicate wording. She opened the floor for discussion. She asked if the committee wanted to convert the bylaws to a document like Wisconsin’s or if they wanted to retain the current IEAC format and continue to work on the updates. The group agreed that the Wisconsin document was easier to read and looked “cleaner”. The group

then looked at the suggested changes to the IEAC language. Redundant language was removed. There was discussion on what “post-graduate” means and its use in the document. Kari suggested using “higher education”. Chairwoman Hunter explained the term is used to describe degrees beyond a Bachelor’s. Fredina suggested using “post-secondary”. This could include trade schools. The group agreed. Chairwoman Hunter suggested removing the list of programs in the document and replace it with the word “program”. This would cover all programs. The group agreed. There was discussion about the early childhood portion of the bylaws now that the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada is in charge of Nevada’s Early Education Advisory (NEEAC), and Tribal Early Childhood Education (TECC) Committees. Fredina suggested that the language be moved to the strategic plan. Theresa suggested writing a letter to the early childhood committees asking for input on how they want to connect with the IEAC. Della asked if anyone from the committees attended the IEAC meetings. Sari reminded the group that bylaws are more like rules for the group. Any mention of other groups should be in the strategic plan. Fredina then led a discussion on the portions of the bylaws that look more like part of a strategic plan rather than a part of a set of bylaws. Kari asked if the group could review the mission statement language. She suggested using words that highlight inclusiveness instead of equality. Chairwoman Hunter said it seemed that there was more work to be done to the bylaws before the group can approve them. She suggested that the group give the document one more review and note the changes that each member wants to see now that they decided on a new format, and to focus on language that does not include strategic planning. She also reminded the group that the Nevada Indian Commissioners are looking for a thoroughly updated set of bylaws and asked that the group consider taking their time rather than rush to get these approved. Sari reminded the group that they could meet as many times as they wished, as long as there was enough time to post the agenda per the Nevada Open Meeting laws. Fredina said she will post both the Wisconsin bylaws and marked-up IEAC bylaws in Google Docs for the members to go in and make suggestions. Chairwoman Hunter gave the group until Sunday, August 8 to review the documents for the next work session meeting.

VI. Agenda Items for Future Meetings (For Discussion)

Continue with a work session to update bylaws.

VII. Date and Location of Next Meeting

August 12, 2021 at 1:pm via ZOOM

VIII. Final Public Comment

There were not public comments.

IX. Adjournment

Chairwoman Hunter adjourned the meeting at 2:46pm.