

Minutes
Washington State Native American Education Advisory Committee
October 19, 2021

In attendance

Cindy Kelly
Anna Armstrong
Jennifer LeBret
Joseph Martin
Sara Marie Ortiz
Elese Washines
Patricia Whitefoot
Lola Ceja
Zoe Higheagle Strong
Sally Brownfield

Unable to attend

Jeremy Rouse

Others in attendance

Laura Lynn
Shandy Abrahamson
Megan Moore
Jon Claymore
Veronica Gallardo
Michelle Parkin

A quorum was declared, and Jennifer LeBret, WSNAEAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:10 am.

Chris Reykdal was in attendance and started with opening remarks discussing data around Covid-19 and the vaccine here in Washington. He referred to the DOH website as a good data source for updated covid information. About 1.2% of employees, (5) separated from OSPI due to the vaccine mandate. He also mentioned that there will be upcoming announcements for 5-11 year old's becoming eligible for the vaccine so be prepared for the outcomes of that.

Superintendent Reykdal also stated that Washington state is very restrictive with exposure protocols and it is having learning impacts on students. Due to exposures, schools are closing, or sending large numbers of students home to quarantine. No policy announcement here but we, OSPI, are pushing back against DOH on some of these protocols, as it is affecting students in the school environment. OSPI is also seeking permanent federal funding for school nursing, covid protocols, and other impacts.

Superintendent Reykdal also mentioned:

- OSPI is seeking full coverage of the school mascot bill
- OSPI is collecting loss of enrollment from 2019 to 2021
 - OSPI is asking the legislature to keep the money appropriated to the schools that was already previously allocated for this data collection

Jon Claymore made a request to the committee that if a local health authority is making the decision to close schools, please document those decisions and send them directly to Chris Reykdal.

Michelle Parkin shared that their school district had to train and put into place contact tracing. The Clallam School District had to close the school for a few days so they could implement the process properly and involve

parents. Now the state has funding called “learn to return”. It takes a lot of staff time and resources. The Neah Bay campus and Makah tribal council had to put everyone into shelter in place for 14 days to bring case numbers back down. The “learn to return” tool was helpful but covid is having a bigger effect on more rural communities.

Zoe Higheagle Strong – What can we do in higher education to support k-12 right now? Currently, WSU waived SAT and ACT, but what else?

- Steer away from remediate classes as data reflects this does not best support students
 - More about supports in regular classes for success
 - Zoe shared interesting data from WGU shows that native students show higher retention rates through remedial classes vs. other students
- Double down on all things dual credit
- Covid created a “gap year” for many students so supports are absolutely necessary
- Creating transition programs for students moving from reservations into urban settings that outline how to social gather during a pandemic
 - Social gatherings are important aspect of native culture so how do we do this safely?
- Thinking about 1139, how to diversify the educator work force with native educators
 - Need peer support, mental health concerns, social emotional supports

October agenda approval:

Motion to approve by Cindy Kelly

Seconded by Patricia Whitefoot with comment.

Patricia suggested keeping the updates of all sub-committees together instead of breaking them up through the agenda and to follow the bylaws. For this particular meeting, the legislative subcommittee was moved further up on the agenda per request of the Executive Committee, but Jen, committee chair, acknowledged the feedback and agreed.

WSNAEAC nomination process:

There was concern and confusion around the nomination process and there are quite a few current vacancies. Previously, Michelle shared that Tribes would nominate someone on their behalf but for certain categories such as higher education, those tribal organizations can nominate someone to the committee. There have been a few instances where individuals were nominating each other and the committee is in agreement that this is not the proper process.

With Sally’s resignation, she will contact her tribal chair regarding the tribal west position. She will ask if there is a council member ready to step up or support a nomination for her to continue in this role rather than the early learning position, now that she has retired from her ECE position.

Based on the conversation and comments from the group, Jen reiterated the question “Do we want to recommend from this committee that only Washington Tribes can make a nomination and that organizations outside of the tribe must consult with tribes to ask them to submit any nominations they would like to make?”

The committee did not make any final decisions but were more in support of honoring our tribes whose aboriginal lands cross the US states borders

While Superintendent Reykdal was still on the meeting, the following topics were discussed:

Remote learning options for Native students

- Deployed 300, 000 devices across WA State
- Some districts have pathway to remote and in person learning but in other communities such as rural communities, they don't have the broadband to make this possible
 - Native students greatly impacted

Tribal Consultation/Relationship building within school districts

- ONE is building a professional learning framework for districts
- Likely to require districts to fill out forms through attestation to reach community partners, including tribal leaders around them, required by U.S dept. of education
 - Have not released funds yet but this will be an expectation
- 37 ESSA schools have participated, 100% participation
- Tribal consultation is developed and being reviewed right now
- Through 5092 proviso, ONE will be hiring a program supervisor to support this work
- Jon and Veronica speaking with lawyers in Washington DC to uphold expectation without harming students if districts do not comply

Cindy Kelly shared a document about WSSDA Policy and Legal News that Megan will send out to WSNAEAC members.

How are schools spending funds related to Covid (CARES Act)

- 2nd round is 800 billion – trying to do SEL supports and reengaging students in learning
 - Also focused on professional learning for staff
- Now, contact tracing and quarantine protocols are really impacting school district funding
- 3rd round 1.6 billion, schools have 2 years to spend that on learning recovery and SEL supports
 - Obligation to engage community partners, including diverse stakeholders
 - Have barely started this process but OSPI will remind districts again in November
- Does this refer to infrastructure as well?
 - Yes, traffic flow of students, air quality, etc.
 - Not for parking lots, electrical etc.

Closing Remarks by Superintendent Reykdal

- Appreciate your time and council as we get through this difficult time. Covid is disproportionately difficult if you are rural – usually means less vaccinated, less mask wearing, increased school closures, which is greatly affecting these communities.

Sub-Committee Updates: Many have not had a chance to meet yet but working on scheduling the next meetings.

SEL Sub-Committee Report Out:

- Mitigating impacts of intergenerational trauma and SEL
 - Project Manager position is moving forward
 - Native American Education Success Program Supervisor will be a part of ONE and working with the subcommittee around this
 - Coordination and collaboration with R16
- Zoe invited Veronica to the next meeting for input
- November 1, next meeting

WSNAEAC Bylaws Sub-Committee:

- Have not met since revisions have been made
- Committee could field recommendation from all members
- Need to convene to discuss WSNAEAC nominations process
- Did not establish a forum, but it would be a majority of the vote
- Conflict of interest – recognize that there was a jump in the statement numbering
 - Contract with OSPI could be conflicting interests so Patsy will be reviewing this further

Data Sub-Committee

- OSPI staff helping with internal processes
- Do have a data plan and also looking at local work of ESD
- Patsy shared appreciation of all that provided input on this collaborative effort
- Travis Wentworth from OSPI has been a great addition to the team
- Veronica wants to acknowledge that there is an additional data team that Travis works with including Matt Frazell, Emily, and one other and she will share their contact information
 - They will be available as of December to take on a research project, they are former higher ed researchers. Suggest finding one project for them to take on for 6 months to a year.
 - One idea off the top is identifying Native students
- The name of the report is “Break Down the Data Door”

Legislative Sub-Committee

- Will be meeting this week

STI curriculum sub-committee:

- Trying to schedule for the first week of November

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

A motion to adjourn the meeting was proposed by Joseph Martin.

The motion was seconded by Zoe Higheagle Strong.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am.