

Minutes  
Washington State Native American Education Advisory Committee  
February 16, 2021

Present

Anna Armstrong  
Buddy Bear  
Elese Washines  
Jarrod Da  
Cindy Kelly  
Dorothy Apple  
Jeremy Rouse  
Joseph Martin  
Jennifer LeBret  
Sara Marie Ortez

Not Present

Thomas Strong  
Pam Austin  
Joel Boyd  
David Littleton  
Sally Brownfield (sent notice)  
Zoe Higheagle Strong (sent notice)  
Michelle Parkin (sent notice)  
Patricia Whitefoot (sent notice)

Other Attendees:

Veronica Gallardo  
Jon Claymore  
Laura Lynn  
Shandy Abrahamson  
Beth Geiger  
Joan Banker

Jennifer LeBret called the meeting to order.

**Updates: 2019-20 Legislation Implementation**

Right to Wear Tribal Regalia Act

*ONE will once again send out guidance to school district this spring.*

Model Policy for Data Sharing between Tribes and Districts

*WSSDA has completed this work and we are discussing next steps.*

Tribal and Heritage Language Grants

*There are 10 tribal language grant programs currently being implemented representing about \$480,000 in resources*

Career Connected Tribal Engagement Specialist

*Shandy Abrahamson, CCTE Specialist, shared some of the work she is pursuing.*

HB 1139: Recruiting Native Educators (ESDs 114, 123 and 171)

*These three educational service districts were named in the legislation to participate in this initiative because they currently have no alternative teacher certification pathways.*

*When this bill passed, OSPI made the decision focus the resources specifically on recruiting Native educators.*

ESSB 6168 501(1)(o) Proviso

- ❖ OSPI Office of Native Education, Washington State School Directors' Association, Washington Association of Educational Service Districts collaborate with Tribal Leaders Congress on Education to develop an education-focused tribal consultation training and training schedule by January 1, 2022. Next steps: Proviso partners meet with Tribal Leaders Congress on Education with the intent of developing an implementation plan.

Also, \$150,000 was provided to Yakama Nation Tribal School through proviso to fund a feasibility study for a new school facility.

## **2020-21 Legislative Updates**

### **Senate Bill 5161**

Implementation of Since Time Immemorial curriculum by September 1, 2023. This would also provide a system for monitoring STI implementation within districts. Currently not moving forward.

### **Senate Bill 5252**

All school board directors of districts required to engage in tribal consultation through the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) will be required to take part in Tribal Consultation training by September 1, 2023 (codifies ESSB 6168 Proviso). Currently not moving forward. Issue: Questions about federally recognized vs. non-federally recognized tribes in bill language. Do we need to educate legislators, lobbyists, etc., prior to the introduction of these bills? Also, how do we get beyond the distraction of federally vs. non-federally tribes and bring the attention back to the needs of Native youth?

### **House Bill 1356**

Prohibits schools from using inappropriate Native American images, symbols, or names as mascots, logos, or team names effective January 1, 2022. OSPI has testified in support of this bill along with tribal individuals and students.

### **House Bill 1426**

Requires administrators renewing certification to complete training focused on government-to-government relationships with Tribes as 5% of their continuing education effective July 1, 2022. 25 hours around anti-racist and culturally responsive leadership and of that, 5 hours would specifically focus on government to government consultation and tribal sovereignty.

Anna shared that just before she testified on another bill, HB 1426 was being heard and it was disheartening to hear people stand up in front of the legislature and say that racism doesn't

exist in Washington State and all the passage of this bill will do is create more discourse and friction. Jon confirmed that he was hearing the same type of comments from people testifying on HB 1426—they actually don't believe racism exists.

Laura also mentioned HB 1080 with a complementary bill in the Senate addressing small school modernization which we are watching since our Tribal Compact Schools are following. If passed, resources would be available for the ongoing capital improvement needs.

1153 is a bill relating to language access in public schools which we are following to see how tribal languages may be included. Currently it is moving through minus tribal languages.

HB 1214 relates to public school safety and security services.

HB 1466 relates to outdoor education. Joseph asked if this could include potential funding for traditional foods, plants, medicine, hunting, fishing, and gathering. Laura said these components are not specifically addressed in the current legislation but it would be good to bring forward these traditional education opportunities.

Laura has been providing a weekly legislative update which ONE is sharing to everyone on their listserves.

Elise recommended ONE provide a summary of proposed bills to share with their communities to solicit support including the reasons why some bills are being held up. Also bill timelines.

Buddy stressed the importance of contacting your legislators again and again and make sure they are aware of a bill's importance and why it needs their support.

Don't forget the importance and impact of our Native youths' voices on behalf of bills and the need for them to engage with legislators.

## **Veronica Gallardo**

The Office of Native Education is now part of the Office for System and School Improvement (OSSI), and Veronica is OSSI Assistant Superintendent. She provided a brief personal background and expressed her commitment to work with ONE to improve outcomes and success for historically underserved youth and particularly Native students. She also wants to support the increased involvement of those students' parents, guardians and communities so their voices are taken into consideration for student success.

## **Cindy Kelly, WSSDA**

First Cindy provided a brief overview of the data sharing agreement WSSDA developed and accompanying policies and procedures, and the development of a land acknowledgement.

She requested WSNAEAC's assistance in naming WSSDA's two conference rooms honoring tribal history/culture/legacy. After some discussion, Cindy asked committee members to contact her with additional input. Also, WSSDA is putting together a video on tribal consultation happening at the highest levels which will be available to school superintendents and school boards.

Elese wanted to state that Yakama's main tribal consultations occur between a school board and tribal council and/or tribal leaders, and that each tribal government has the inherent right to define the consultation process for themselves. She described the tribal consultation process at Yakama.

### **At 2:00 a quorum was declared.**

Jen asked for a motion to approve the 2/16/21 WSNAEAC agenda. Cindy made the motion to approve the agenda, Else seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Jen asked for a motion to approve the 11/30/20 WSNAEAC meeting minutes. Else moved to approved the minutes, Joseph seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### **STI Webinars**

About 50% of schools have participated in STI R2Go, T2T or other ONE sponsored STI related trainings. Additional trainings are also happening within districts led by STI trained educators.

### **R16CC, Beth Geiger (please refer to 2/16/21 slide deck attached)**

Shared a brief background on the Region 16 Comprehensive Center encompassing the states of Alaska, Washington and Oregon. Funds provided to the Centers are for technical assistance and capacity building. Washington's OSPI made the choice that resources in our state be focused toward capacity building in Native education and communities.

She discussed the composition of the R16CC Advisory Board members, their two-year service plan, Circles of Reflection and Share our Stories/Hear Our Voices (involving Native parents, families and youth) initiatives, and shared resources.

## **Shandy Abrahamson, Career Connected Tribal Education Specialist**

Shandy announced that she has been asked to present at the Washington Association of Career and Technical Education conference because one of the main topics is tribal engagement and CTE programs. Wants to reinforce the importance of understanding tribal sovereignty and tribal consultation. Local school districts want to have a better understanding of tribes and how to really engage and create successful partnerships and relationships. Also provided information of how tribal compact schools are incorporating CTE programs within their schools.

Else mentioned that under the leadership of John Cena, Superintendent, Toppenish School District is building an entire facility to house CTE programs and they have an open invitation to people to tour the building.

## **Native Student Dashboard**

Laura discussed the creation of a "dashboard" for the ONE office to ensure access to accurate, reliable and current data on Native students in Washington State.

## **Land Acknowledgement**

Jon updated WSNAEAC members on the progress of developing a Land Acknowledgement for OSPI and land acknowledgement training within the agency. All staff and all new hires at OSPI will need to go through this training.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.