

Nevada Indian Commission
Indian Education Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2015

Main Site: Western Nevada College, 2201 West College Parkway, Carson City, NV
Videoconference Sites: Fallon, NV; Owyhee, NV; Las Vegas, NV; McDermitt, NV; Reno, NV

Present: Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission; Denise M. Becker, Administrative Assistant III, Nevada Indian Commission; Lynn John, Chairwoman, Indian Education Advisory Committee; Fredina Drye-Romero, Education Programs Professional, Indian Education, Nevada Department of Education; San San Tin, Education Department Manager, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony (RSIC); Rob Borges, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California; Rita Imus, Workforce Development Specialist, Inter-tribal Council of Nevada (ITCN); Patrick Naranjo, Assistant to Ombudsman and Assistant to the Vice President, Diversity Initiatives, University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV)

- I. Invocation
 - A. The invocation was given by Lynn John.

- II. Welcome and Introductions
 - A. Lynn John called the meeting to order at 9:39am.

- III. Initial Public Comment
 - A. None

- IV. Approval of March 2, 2015 Meeting Minutes
 - A. Fredina found an error that needed to be corrected. She then made a motion to approve the March 2, 2015 minutes with correction. San San seconded and the motion was approved.

- V. Approval of May 4, 2015 Meeting Minutes
 - A. Lynn found an error that needed to be corrected. San San made a motion to approve the May 4, 2015 minutes with correction. Rob seconded and the motion was approved.

- VI. Discussion on Merging the Tribal Early Childhood Advisory Committee (TECAC) and the Indian Education Advisory Committee (IEAC)
 - A. Sherry stated that at the May board meeting of the Nevada Indian Commission (NIC), the merging of the IEAC and TECAC was discussed. It was determined that the IEAC bylaws will need to be revised if the TECAC is dissolved. Sherry stated that she has spoken briefly to the Chairwoman of TECAC, Sherry Ely-Mendes, as well as Theresa Rowe, Vice-Chair of that committee. She has yet to discuss the process of dissolving TECAC in full with Ms. Ely-Mendes and is hoping to do so soon. She said that Lynn and San San agreed that merging the two advisory committees would be a good idea and that discussing education “from cradleboard to college” would be beneficial. Sherry said that the original intent of the IEAC was to have the TECAC as a subcommittee. Sherry is proposing that prior to the next IEAC meeting, the membership portion of the bylaws will be revised. Lynn said that adding an early childhood component to the IEAC meetings would be natural since these children will enter K-12 and higher education anyway. Fredina agreed that pre-K is a part of the child’s path. Sherry suggested that there should be a standing TECAC update at each IEAC meeting and then a representative from the TECAC subcommittee can give their report. In order to amend the bylaws, a written notice outlining the proposed changes, needs to be done at least 30 calendar days before the next meeting. Sherry said she will

schedule a meeting for the following Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday to meet the 30-day requirement.

VII. Nevada Indian Education Strategic Plan Revision Update

- A. Sherry stated that the group revising the strategic plan met two times over the summer and the next meeting is on October 6, 2015. She said that the group is about halfway through going over the goals and accomplishments of the past five years and wants to determine new goals and objectives for the next five years.

VIII. Update on Planning for the 2016 National Indian Education Association (NIEA) Convention, Reno, Nevada

- A. Sherry stated she has spoken with John Leinan of the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority (RSCVA) about having an ad as well as a booth at this year's NIEA Convention. She said that he was going to check on that requirement and get back to her. She has not received an update from him thus far.
- B. Fredina said that she and Sherry will take part in a meeting about the 2016 Convention while they attend the 2015 NIEA Convention in Portland, Oregon next month. Fredina mentioned that she wants to be fully prepared by January 2016, so that when the NIEA Convention Planning Committee (CPC) asks for recommendations, Nevada will be ready to provide them.
- C. Fredina commented that the Local Planning Committee (LPC) has much to do and that Sherry will be contacting people on the volunteer list to be added to the LPC. San San said that she would like to volunteer on this committee.
- D. Sherry said that the LPC should begin meeting in November and Lynn agreed, suggesting that after the next IEAC meeting would be a good time. Fredina said that she would send out the CPC guidelines with agendas and minutes from past meetings so that the Committee can see what the CPC is looking for. Lynn commented that the 2016 Convention is coming up fast and that the Committee needs to be ready to give the best representation of who we are.

IX. Committee Member Comments and Announcements

- A. Sherry wanted to comment that the American Indian Achievement Awards Banquet and Silent Auction will be held at the Governor's Mansion on Saturday, November 14, 2015. Tickets, sponsorships and ads may be purchased online at www.nic.nv.gov. Sherry implored the group to nominate people from their tribes and communities. Three awards are for American Indians and the last award is for anybody that has contributed or supported American Indian communities throughout the state.
- B. Patrick said that UNLV's Native American Student Organization (NASO) will be hosting a Cultural Exchange with a Maori group from Australia at Mt. Charleston on September 30, 2015. On October 12, 2015, UNLV will have an Indigenous Day, showcasing social justice issues and providing awareness surrounding Columbus Day.
- C. American Indian Day is this Friday. Lynn stated that Owyhee Combined School will celebrate by having multiple events throughout the week. The school will be having a suicide prevention assembly, a wear-your-tribal t-shirt day, and a Rock Your Mocs day. Lynn asked if the NIC had received the Governor's Proclamation and Sherry said no, but when it is received, it will be posted to the NIC website and sent out to the list serves.
- D. Sherry said that there will be an American Indian Division at this year's Nevada Day Parade for all of the Native entrants to be together in one area. Sherry said that she will be the Co-Grand Marshal and will share a float with alumni of the Stewart Indian School.

X. Indian Education Updates

A. Nevada Department of Education

1. Fredina said that there were the Lesson Plan Writing Retreats in Reno, Las Vegas and Elko during the month of July. She stated that all were well attended, but she wants to have more attendance from the Elko County School District. She feels that the lesson plans need work as non-natives are not quite understanding the culture and as a result, the plans are declining in quality.
2. Fredina mentioned that she is working with the AB 234 Multicultural Education Licensure workgroup to discuss the proper standards and regulations for this bill. It is outlined as any licensed teacher who is initially licensed on or after July 1, 2015, must submit proof that they have successfully completed a course in multicultural education. Teachers whose licenses are up for renewal must also submit proof of completing a course in multicultural education. Lynn asked Fredina who serves in the group and Fredina said she needs to learn more about it and will update the group at the next meeting. Lynn asked what Dale Erquiaga's stance is on this issue and Fredina commented that he is no longer with the Department. She said that Steve Canavero is the new Interim Superintendent and she believes that Mr. Canavero will move Indian Education forward on solid ground.
3. A Higher Education Workshop will be held at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) in October 2015. UNLV will be hosting a History and Language Symposium in January 2016.

B. Tribal Education Program

1. San San stated there are 155 tribal students in Hungry Valley and Reno has 93 tribal students. San San reported that 53 students attend higher education and two students are receiving tribal assistance to attend law school. She said that 33 youth worked over the summer and that there are 52 students enrolled in Head Start, and 23 children are in child care. She mentioned the Language and Culture program will be having a Native Pride march on American Indian Day from 4:00pm - 8:00pm in the RSIC gym.
2. Rita mentioned that 197 students attended the Lake Tahoe Youth Conference, August 2 – August 5, 2015.

C. County School District Programs

1. Rob stated that an enrichment program for students in science, math and culture was held over the summer. This enrichment program served breakfast and lunch to youth and their parents. Rob said that 16 students worked over the summer. Rob mentioned that 60 students attended the Youth Conference that was held at the Carson Valley Inn, with students from Alpine, Douglas and Carson counties in attendance. Rob reported that three new education employees, Kelly Stokes, Constance Barnes, and Janet Wiley were recently hired. Rhonda Roth at Seeliger Elementary is the Education Lead. Rob is currently working on three Memorandums of Understanding agreements (MOUs) for the three school districts.
2. Fredina commented that Rhonda Knight, from the Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe, is the new Indian Programs Professional for the Washoe County School District.
3. Lynn John, Vice-Principal of the Owyhee Combined School, reported that she presented at the Indian Education conference in Boise, Idaho this past July. She stated that there were approximately 100 participants and felt that it was well attended. Lynn said that Owyhee has an increased enrollment of 288 students in the K-12 system. She said that there are six long term substitute teachers, but is hoping to recruit certified teachers for the 2015/2016 school year. There is even a \$10,000 signing bonus to hire licensed teachers.

D. Universities and Community College Updates

Patrick stated that he is looking for high school teachers that would be interested in the being trained on solar kits, as he is the advisor for the Native American Student Association (NASA). He is trying to push the STEM programs at UNLV and UNR. Patrick said there will be a tribal leadership meeting on October 12, 2015. Patrick reported that he may not return to UNLV due to reorganization of the Diversity Initiatives program. Lynn asked Patrick whether a letter written on his behalf would be beneficial and he said yes. Patrick thanked the members of the Committee for their offer of support.

XI. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- A. Bylaws
- B. 2016 NIEA Convention Planning
- C. Update on the Strategic Plan
- D. IEAC and TECAC Merger

XII. Scheduling and Location of Next Indian Education Advisory Committee Meeting

- A. The next meeting will be held on November 2, 2015.

XIII. Final Public Comment

- A. Fredina shared that Tanaya Winder, a presenter at the 2015 Indian Education Summit in March, has recently published a book of poetry titled, *Words like Love*.
- B. Lynn's sister has gained a national audience of Native youth as one of her articles is featured in the publication, Indian Country Today.

XIV. Adjournment

- A. Fredina made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Rob seconded. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 11:30am.