

**NEVADA INDIAN COMMISSION  
INDIAN EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

*May 2, 2017- 9:30am*

Videoconferencing Sites around Nevada

Committee Member	Seat Filled	Pre sent	Absent
Saundra Mitrovich	University of Nevada, Reno	<b>x</b>	
Fredina Drye-Romero	NV Department		<b>x</b>
Lori Pasqua	Washoe Tribe of NV & CA	<b>x</b>	
Patrick Naranjo	University of Nevada, Las Vegas	<b>x</b>	
Theresa Rowe	Washoe Tribe of NV & CA, Head Start	<b>x</b>	
San San Tin	Education Manager, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony	<b>x</b>	
Miguel Martinez	Truckee Meadows Community College	<b>x</b>	

NIC Staff Present: Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director; Denise M. Becker, Administrative Assistant III

Others Present: Stephanie Wyatt, Development Specialist, Nevada Early Intervention Services; Chelsey Solemsaas, Washoe County School District; Chantelle Johnson, Acting Education Director, Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe; Della Frank, Clark County School District; Constance Barnes, Education Director, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California

**I. Invocation**

Chairwoman Mitrovich provided the invocation.

**II. Welcome and Introductions**

Chairwoman Mitrovich called the meeting to order at 9:45am and asked all those present to introduce themselves.

**III. Initial Public Comment**

There were no initial public comments.

**IV. Approval of March 7, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Tin stated that Monica Thomas of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony was present at the March 7, 2017 Meeting and was not included in the Minutes. This correction will be made prior to posting the final version of the Minutes.

**Ms. Tin made a motion to approve the March 7, 2017 Meeting Minutes and Mr. Martinez seconded. The motion carried.**

**V. Approval of Education Advisory Committee Appointment of Representative Forms**

Executive Director Rupert presented one Appointment of Representative Forms for approval on the Education Advisory Committee. The approval request is for Theresa Rowe, Education Manager for the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California Head Start Program.

**Ms. Tin made a motion to approve Ms. Rowe’s Appointment of Representative Form and Ms. Pasqua seconded. The motion carried.**

**VI. Report on Nevada American Indian Alaska Native Education Summit, March 20-21, 2017**

Ms. Rupert reported to the Committee that Fredina Drye-Romero, Education Programs Professional of the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) was not present, but had forwarded a report on the Summit. Ms. Rupert shared that this was the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Indian Education Summit, held at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) on March 20-21, 2017.

Although registrations were lower this year, the Summit had some great keynote speakers. DJ Vanus is a motivational speaker and worked with the youth during the Summit. Native American Hip Hop artist, Supaman, shared his story and entertained the attendees during the luncheon on the first day. Native Nevadan Sarah Manning was the keynote speaker on the second day and she shared her personal experience with sensitivity and passion, making her story relevant to students and educators alike.

The National Indian Education Association (NIEA) was also present and provided information on the new Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and how the implementations will impact students throughout the country.

On the final day, Mary Kim Titla, Executive Director of the United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY) organization gave a presentation on what UNITY is and how it benefits students. Also on the final day, students gave a presentation called “Student Voices” which encompassed actual student voices and how they envision their personal and academic journeys. “Student Voices” was such a powerful presentation that it will be incorporated in the yearly Summit from now on. Ms. Drye-Romero gave special thanks to Ms. Mitrovich for planning the youth portion of the Summit.

Ms. Rupert reported that next year’s Summit will be held on March 22-23, 2018. Chairwoman Mitrovich commented that historically the Summit was held at the beginning of the week and now it has been changed to Thursday/Friday to give travelers more time to return home without having to rush.

**VII. Report on Nevada Ready B-3 Meeting, March 8, 2017 – Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission**

Ms. Rupert reported to the Committee that the NDE, Office of Early Learning and Development, has contracted with Turning Point, Inc. and its partners: the National P-3 Center at the University of Washington; FirstSchool at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; and the Center for Program Evaluation at UNR. She went on to state “This Project Management Team will support the development of practices and systems for using data to promote effective Birth-Third grade (B-3) learning communities, B-3 leadership, connections between policy and practice, and between leaders, educators, and providers across the B-3 continuum. In partnership with many of Nevada’s experts and stakeholders, this team will facilitate deep and lasting cultural shifts in B-3 schools, communities and programs that are essential to meaningful changes in practice. Funding for the Nevada Ready B-3 project is provided by the Federal Preschool Development Grant.” Ms. Rupert also read the Nevada Ready B-3 Vision Statement: “Nevada’s children will be safe, healthy, and thriving during the first eight years of life, and the system will support children and families in achieving their full potential.”

Ms. Rupert stated that she may not be the “right” person to serve on this initiative as she feels she lacks expertise in early childhood education. Ms. Rupert invited other Committee members to inform her of their interest in this project so she can forward the contact information to them.

## **VIII. Discussion and Review of Draft Resolution to Support Revision of University Tuition Requirements for Tribal Members of Nevada Tribes**

Chairwoman Mitrovich reported that she has been working with the UNR Assessment Team to see where students are going if they do not graduate. Some of the studies show that students aren't graduating because of a lack of financial aid or not enough work study programs. Ms. Rupert stated that she is the Treasurer for the Governor's Interstate Indian Council and commented that the State of Arizona does allow in-state tuition rates for its tribal students. She will contact the other States to see whether they have such programs as well.

In addition, Chairwoman Mitrovich told the Committee that members need to reach out to the Tribes and ask the following questions: "Where are your students going to college? If the students have tuition assistance, what are the rates of transfer? What are their majors?" Ms. Mitrovich stated that a narrative can be done and used as research documentation for the proposal to the Board of Regents.

Ms. Rupert recommended that a Subcommittee be formed on this topic and meet during the summer even though an Indian Education Advisory Committee meeting won't take place. Of those present, Ms. Mitrovich, Ms. Drye-Romero, Ms. Emm, Ms. Frank, and Ms. Thomas all confirmed they were interested in being on the Subcommittee. Ms. Mitrovich asked that the Committee invite Education Director Candice Birchim at the Walker River Paiute Tribe, to join the Subcommittee as well.

Ms. Rupert also suggested that presenting this information to the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada (ITCN) so that a resolution of support could be placed behind the proposal to the Board of Regents.

## **IX. Indian Education Updates**

### **A. Tribal Education Programs**

Ms. Tin gave a summary on the activities of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony (RSIC) Education Department. May 25, 2017 will be the last day of Head Start. She commented that the federal government fully funded Head Start this year and is hopeful they will again next school year. Ms. Tin shared that on June 15, 2017, a Powwow will be held to honor transitioning students. She also reported that teachers from Washoe County will be assisting students with reading over the summer.

Ms. Pasqua gave a report for the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California's Education Director, Constance Barnes. A week after school gets out, the "Sophomores to Seniors" program begins and tours of local colleges are arranged. The colleges visited are Western Nevada College, Lake Tahoe Community College, Sacramento State, Sacramento City College, Lassen Community College, in addition to some vocational schools, like truck driving schools.

Ms. Johnson gave a report for the Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe (FPST), stating that she is revamping their Education Department and that their summer recreation program will also include an education enrichment program. She stated that the FPST will be having a Graduate Recognition Dinner on June 29, 2017 at 6:00pm for high school and college graduates. Ms. Johnson reported that due to a staff shortage, the afterschool program has closed temporarily. Ms. Tin and Chairwoman Mitrovich stated that they may be able to assist and to please contact them.

## B. Tribal Early Childhood Education Programs

Ms. Rowe reported that the Washoe Tribe's Head Start program is part of the Silver State Stars. It is developing a model regarding Indian Health Services (HIS) Head Start and Childcare. She will attend a meeting on this topic in June and will report back to the Committee at the next meeting. Ms. Rowe is pleased that Head Start requirements have changed. She also reported that Lisa Enos, the Washoe Tribe's language instructor is back and has been very interactive with students. Ms. Rowe stated that the Washoe Tribe's Head Start program's last day is on May 18, 2017.

## C. County School District Programs

Ms. Solemsaas, Indian Education Specialist with the Washoe County School District (WCSD), reported that there was a WCSD Trustees meeting last week and that UNR royalty was in attendance. She commented that Ms. McCauley's students from Natchez Elementary gave a performance, as did the Eagle Wings Dance Troupe. Ms. Solemsaas stated that the Paiute Language Bowl will be held at Joe Crowley Student Union at UNR on May 22, 2017 from 10:30am-1:30pm and that students from Spanish Springs High School, Reed High School, and North Valleys High School will be participating.

Ms. Solemsaas also stated that she continues to work with the WCSD Grants department, the WCSD Parent Advisory Committee, and that she frequently works with representatives from the RSIC and Nevada Urban Indians (NUI).

Ms. Pasqua shared that Bill Simpson is Douglas County School District's new Education Advisor.

Ms. Frank, Project Facilitator with the Clark County School District (CCSD), reported that there is a new Student Success Advocate in Indian Education, Myesha Reyford. She will be assisting Ms. Frank and Ms. Diana Croci. Ms. Frank stated that CCSD has 635 Title VI students and 440 Johnson O'Malley (JOM) students. On June 19-20, 2017, 30 slots will open for current high school students to attend an overnight college tour at UNLV.

## D. Universities & Community Colleges

Mr. Martinez, Truckee Meadows Community College, shared information on the Promise Scholarship and stated that there is financial supplementation for students at the Community College level. Mr. Martinez reminded the Committee that he is always available for resources and to contact him for school tours.

Ms. Mitrovich reported for the Higher Education Program at UNR. She stated that the annual UNR Powwow and Princess Pageant will be held beginning this Friday, May 5-7, 2017. Ms. Mitrovich stated that information booth space is free and to e-mail her at [smitrovich@unr.edu](mailto:smitrovich@unr.edu) for your information to be placed in the Powwow Program or at the information table. Ms. Mitrovich commented that students from Lassen Community College in Susanville, CA, are participating in all local UNR events.

Mr. Naranjo, Resource Coordinator for the Intersection at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, reported that the Intersection had its grand opening on April 21, 2017. He stated there are

resources available which highlight diversity and that a new Chief Diversity Officer that is being hired will reinforce this structuring, creating better programming for the students.

#### **E. Other Indian Education Programs**

Ms. Wyatt, Nevada Early Intervention Services (NEIS), reported that she will be attending the Nevada Association for the Education of Young Children conference, to be held May 18-20, 2017. Ms. Wyatt also reported that the NEIS is going through some changes and will know more after the end of the legislative session what changes will be permanent.

#### **X. Committee Member Comments and Announcements**

Ms. Rupert shared that students from the UNLV Alternative Break program will return to the Stewart Indian School to assist in cleaning out some of the buildings. In addition to service work, the Nevada Indian Commission (NIC) will provide the students with new speakers to share the culture.

Ms. Rupert reported that the NIC has hired a new Museum Director, Bobbi Rahder. She worked at Haskell Indian Nations University and built the Haskell Museum from the ground up. Ms. Rahder has a Bachelor's in Journalism and a Master's in Museum Studies.

Ms. Rupert also mentioned that the 2017 Stewart Father's Day Powwow is coming up quickly and asked for volunteers. This year's event will be held during Father's Day weekend, June 16-18, 2017.

Chairwoman Mitrovich reported that there were 67 American Indian/Alaska Natives that graduated in May and that May 10, 2017 will be UNR's Graduation Celebration.

Ms. Pasqua relayed that a handgame tournament will be held the weekend of May 22, 2017 at the Washoe Tribal Casino.

#### **XI. Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

Suggestions for future agenda items include the approval of the May 2, 2017 Meeting Minutes, a report from the In-State Tuition Subcommittee.

Any other requests for agenda items should be forwarded to Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission

#### **XII. Scheduling and Location of Next Meeting**

The next Indian Education Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 26, 2017.

#### **XIII. Final Public Comment**

There were no final public comments.

#### **XIV. Adjournment**

**Lori motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Della. The meeting adjourned at 11:38am.**