

Nevada Indian Commission Indian Education Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2019
Via Teleconference

Committee Member	Seat Filled	Present	Absent
Saundra Mitrovich, Chair	University of Nevada, Reno	✓	
Lori Pasqua, Vice Chair	Washoe Tribe of NV & CA	✓	
Teresa Rowe	Washoe Tribe of NV & CA Head Start		✓
Patrick Naranjo	University of Nevada, Las Vegas		✓
Fawn Hunter	Washoe County School District	✓	
Miguel Martinez	Truckee Meadows Community College		✓
Priscilla Acosta	Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada	✓	
Fredina Drye-Romero	Nevada Department of Education	✓	
Della Frank	Clark County School District		✓

NIC Staff Present: Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission; Diane Buckley, Administrative Assistant III, Nevada Indian Commission

Others Present: Kristin Mokosisi, Nevada Department of Education; Fran Maldonado, Tribal Liaison for the Division of Child and Family Services

I. Invocation

Fredina Drye-Romero provided the invocation.

II. Welcome and Introductions

Chairwoman Mitrovich called the meeting to order at 9:36am and asked all those present to introduce themselves.

III. Initial Public Comment

Ms. Acosta shared that there was a meeting for the ITCN convention coming up October 28, 2019 – November 1, 2019. She asked if anyone would be interested in serving at this conference or needed more information about the event to please contact her.

IV. Approval of September 4, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Hunter mentioned that in item VII, her last name was written incorrectly, and that her last name is Hunter and not Douglas. Ms. Pasqua mentioned her name was written incorrectly in item number IV.

Ms. Acosta made a motion to approve the September 4, 2018 Meeting Minutes with the corrections noted. Ms. Drye-Romero seconded. The motion carried.

V. Unfinished Business

A. Update on In-State Tuition Waiver Request, Future Meeting Scheduling and Deadline for Draft Proposal

Director Rupert gave an update on an In-State Tuition Waiver Request for tribal members that reside out-of-state. The Commission would like to see these members come back to school in Nevada and be able to do so under In-State Tuition rates. Another meeting will be scheduled to discuss a timeline. Chairwoman Mitrovich shared that she met with the “Walk of Sorrows” and they are looking at this issue. She discussed what tribes in Nevada should focus on. What other models are out there? Oregon has been one model that has been discussed. Director Rupert asked for another meeting on March 28, 2019.

Ms. Pasqua asked for clarification on residency tuition fees for out-of-state students that need to prove their tribal affiliation in order to obtain the waiver. Ms. Pasqua clarified that NSHE requires students to live on the reservation. This would need to go to the Board of Regents which meets in April in Las Vegas. It was suggested that the Indian Education Advisory Committee have time on the agenda for this meeting. If not, then take time during the Public Comment to address this issue. Chairwoman Mitrovich shared that the theme of this meeting with the Regents is “Closing the Achievement Gap.” The Chairwoman will send the agenda to Director Rupert.

B. Discussion on Development of NIC Educational Scholarship/Fund to Assist American Indian/Alaska Native Families Program Parameters for Recommendation to the NIC Board for Approval

Director Rupert reported to the committee that NIC held their quarterly meeting in Owyhee, NV in August 2018. The Commission met with the Lovelock Paiute Tribe, the Ft. McDermitt Paiute Shoshone Tribe, and other eastern tribes on this trip. The tribes reported about the fees the school districts charged their students. The Commission has discussed ways for the tribal families to be successful. The director, after speaking with the board, has spoken with Fredina Drye-Romero to put together information on the different school districts in Nevada and the fees they charge the students. She will be looking into waiver programs in the districts before coming up with any program here at the Commission.

Ms. Pasqua shared that in Douglas County there are fee waivers if you have free and reduced lunch only. The Johnson-O’Malley (JOM) program will pay for this. Ms. Drye-Romero will forward email to Kristin, the Title I Consultant at the Department of Education. Ms. Hunter will look to see if any of the programs across the state provide services for free or reduced lunch. Chairwoman Mitrovich reported that UNR has added two more scholarships for native students. These just aren’t publicized very well. She wants to put together a resource guide for families.

VI. New Business

A. Approval of Education Advisory Committee for American Indian and Alaska Native Appointment of Representative Forms

Director Rupert presented the Appointment of Representative Forms for approval on the Indian Education Committee (IEAC). The approval requests were for Fredina Drye-Romero, Education Programs Professional, Indian Education, Nevada Department of Education; Saundra Mitrovich, Outreach and Retention Coordinator, Indigenous Student Services, University of Nevada Reno; Lori Pasqua, Pre-College Advisor, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California; Miguel Martinez, College Recruitment Coordinator, Truckee Meadows Community College; and Fawn Hunter, Equity and Diversity, Washoe County School District.

Fran Maldonado made a motion to approve the Appointment of Representative forms for Ms. Drye-Romero, Ms. Mitrovich, Ms. Pasqua, Mr. Martinez, and Ms. Hunter; seconded by Ms. Drye-Romero. The motion carried.

B. Discussion on Washoe County School District Policy on Beaded Caps for High School Graduates

It was mentioned by the Committee that this may have to be a state policy where the legislature makes the decision to allow this and not the counties. Director Rupert mentioned that Mr. Lowry commented on this in a prior meeting, trying to come up with a remedy for this policy so families don't have to go through the school district each year. This Committee could recommend legislation to the Indian Commission for drafting language for the next legislative session. Chairwoman Mitrovich asked if there is drafting language available and asked Ms. Hunter to research this and give it to Director Rupert for the Listserv.

Ms. Pasqua commented on discussing this with the Department of Education to see if they could assist. Ms. Drye-Romero replied that Nevada is a locally controlled state, so the state cannot tell the districts what to do. The Legislature may be the best path. Ms. Pasqua wanted to know if the Department of Education addresses the Superintendent of Schools. Ms. Drye-Romero replied by stating the Superintendent for Public Instruction is connected with the Board of Education and has quarterly meetings with the Superintendents in the State of Nevada.

VII. Indian Education Updates

A. Nevada Department of Education

Ms. Drye-Romero reported that she wanted to apply for the 21st Century Grant. The Tribal consultation in four different school districts has allowed her to hear from the tribes that there needs to be more blending of the funding.

Ms. Drye-Romero updated the committee on the following events. The ITCN Convention and the Department of Education is putting on their 12th Annual American Indian Alaska Native Education

Summit. The agenda will be sent out on the Listserv. She updated the Committee on the Education Summit. She will be having a screening of The Rumble Indians throughout the World. She is partnering with the Pyramid Lake High School to have a bus at the Nugget Hotel to transport conference attendees to Hungry Valley. She is working with the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony to make this possible. There will be sessions where native youth can research project grants. They will be able to provide speakers for the youth and adult participants. She will post these events on the Listserv.

Ms. Drye-Romero commented on the Pesa Namanedu awardees and spoke about the recipients. She updated the committee about the Native Youth Committee Project Grant. She is working with the Ft. McDermitt Paiute Tribe, the Yerington Paiute Tribe, and the Walker River Paiute Tribe. This project will host a youth camp. She is partnering with ITCN for the summer camp in August 2019 at the 4-H Camp where all youth are invited.

Ft. McDermitt is providing a statewide multicultural youth summit, focusing on Native American culture. This will be hosted in Winnemucca, Nevada. There will be a \$25 registration fee. They will also be hosting a Powwow. Flyers will be sent out.

The Native Youth Project Grant will have more scholarships this year. Registration for the Education Summit closes on March 12th. She updated the committee about the National J.A.O. Land Conference in Las Vegas. The NIEA Appeal on the day has three priorities with higher education and making sure that Title III program grant funding is available for Tribal colleges to continue to work from, the construction of the buildings, public schools, and BIE schools.

Ms. Drye-Romero gave an update on the 21st Century grant and their ideas. They met with 21st Century and find ways to start a consortium for the tribes to be able to apply, or work with their school districts to have a 21st Century. Chairwoman Mitrovich commented about a PowerPoint that Kristin and Tequia (NDE) presented on this subject. Kristin, Department of Education discussed the 21st Century grant and other grants available. Ms. Drye-Romero reported that she had reached out to the Nevada Indian Commission, to ITCN, and to the Las Vegas Indian Center for more information. Priscilla Acosta, ITCN commented about 21st Century overlapping with CCDF and the possibility of the program receiving full CCDF grant dollars. Ms. Drye-Romero replied that as long as the grant doesn't take over what is already being funded. Priscilla Acosta will follow-up with Chris Harjo.

Ms. Drye-Romero concluded by mentioning the Kinney-Vento Homeless Student and homeless education, Title 1A and the fees being charged. She also commented regarding a letter Oklahoma Attorney General sent to the Board of Education.

B. Tribal Education Programs

Ms. Pasqua updated the Committee on the changes in leadership within the Washoe Tribe. Chairman Serrell Smokey, new Chairman of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California; the new TANF Director, Borden Forester; and Interim Education Director, Herman Fillmore.

Ms. Pasqua reported on her pre-college activities. She is doing a six-week presentation at Pau Wa Lu for pre-education. For higher level education, she is planning college tours in the spring 2019. She is working on the applications for scholarships with the applicants from the Washoe Tribe. The Native Youth Conference is scheduled for August 2019. The Washoe Tribe has a new website with job openings. A question was asked about a tribal hiring fair. Maybe sometime in the future the tribes could promote openings within their tribe. Karen Shaw is the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Higher Education Representative.

C. Tribal Early Childhood Education Programs

Ms. Acosta reported that ITCN is currently working on their next three year funding grant that will be due September 6, 2019. She has attended the National Indian Child Certification on early education. In April she will be attending the Nevada Association for Education for young children conference in Las Vega and the Early Childhood Research Symposium at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. The childcare development grant put out the final pre-print for the grant which is available online.

D. County School District Programs

Ms. Hunter reported on the Tribal Consultation with Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe and Reno-Sparks Indian Colony. She will re-schedule a meeting to answer their questions.

The Paiute Language Bowl is coming up on March 21st on the UNR campus. There is a Language Bowl T-Shirt design contest which is open to the public to participate.

Director Rupert reported on the Elko meeting with the tribes, Governor Sisolak and the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe leadership. The Natchez Elementary School continues to under-perform and in the eyes of the Tribal Leadership, they don't receive the resources that are needed from the Washoe County School District. She will follow-up on this for the Governor.

Ms. Hunter mentioned that the Washoe County School District has an Equity and Diversity position opening. She commented on the resources that the school district has to offer its students.

E. Universities & Community Colleges

Chairwoman Mitrovich reported on what the University of Nevada, Reno is doing to build up the program at the Indigenous Services Program for undergraduate, graduate students, and professional students. The progress in this program will be in the report that goes to NSHE. The webpage IRISE

(Indigenous Research Institute for Student Empowerment) is hosted on the Knowledge Center's webpage at the University of Nevada, Reno. New indigenous books have been ordered to service the indigenous population. A group traveled to the American Indian Studies Association in New Mexico for indigenous research. Three out of five proposals for academic discipline have just been accepted for an Indigenous Students conference in New Zealand. Ms. Mitrovich and Dr. Deborah Harry (faculty) will be attending with five students.

The university has started a P.A.W. (Peers at Work) mentor program on campus. This program will support the transfer student population who will automatically be enrolled in this program upon their transfer to UNR. The university will be reaching out to community college students to assist them with their academic decisions at the community college level so they can successfully transition to the university.

Ms. Mitrovich has been partnering with Mr. Martinez, Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) to go to different events and pathway programs together. The commitment between the university and TMCC is important so that the students can see that this is a pathway. TMCC has been working with Brenden Able to get their Native Student organization up and running.

Patrick Naranjo, Resource Coordinator, University of Nevada, Las Vegas has been working on the National Science Foundation Partnership, and different research pieces with their Native American Research Center and the Native American Alliance group.

Ms. Mitrovich reported on the University of Nevada, Reno College of Liberal Arts, Dr. Deborah Harry who has been working on getting the Indigenous Studies curriculum up and running as a major and a minor on campus. In the fall 2019, Paiute language courses will be offered. This is a partnership with the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony.

Ms. Mitrovich explained about how the university is attempting to obtain signage and symbolism in their native languages so it can be put up around campus. They will be starting with Great Basin Hall. They have reached out to the Washoe Cultural Resource Committee which did some translation for the university so they can have the language present in the community spaces. There will be approximately six translations present in Great Basin Hall. Students that persist and do well tend to get involved with activities on campus. The Living and Learning community was just proposed this semester. The fall of 2020 is the goal to have the first indigenous living and learning community on campus. They have identified donors for scholarships for the students.

May 9th is the native graduate celebration on campus in the Joe Crawley Student Union Ballroom 6:00pm – 9:00pm.

F. Other Indian Education Programs

Ms. Mitrovich mentioned that Jonathan Lowry is with Nevada Urban Indians (NUI) now. There is a Powwow and a health fair coming up. If you are interested in volunteering or being a vendor, please contact him.

VIII. Committee Member Comments and Announcements

Director Rupert mentioned that there is a Nevada State Board of Education meeting on March 12th at 9:00am in Carson City. They will be discussing candidates for Superintendent for Public Instruction. She mentioned why it was important for members of the committee to attend. There are a couple of candidates that are of concern to the Indian Commission and Indian Education Advisory Committee.

IX. Agenda Items for Future Meetings

Agenda items for future meetings include: update on the tuition waiver, research on school district fees, research on Legislative language for eagle feathers and beaded caps and the curriculum guide.

X. Scheduling and Location of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 7, 2019.

XI. Final Public Comment

There were no final public comments.

XII. Adjournment

Ms. Pasqua made a motion to adjourn the IEAC meeting, seconded by Ms. Acosta The meeting adjourned at 11:23am.