

Fall 2019 Tribal Leaders Summit
November 15, 2019

The Fall 2019 Tribal Leaders Summit began with songs from high school students in John Williams, APS Indian Education Department Resource Teacher, classes.

The Opening Prayer was given by the Honorable James Mountain, Former Governor from the Pueblo of San Ildefonso.

Dr. David Peercy, APS Board of Education President, welcomed all.

Dr. Madelyn Serna Marmol, Associate Superintendent of Equity, Instruction, Innovation, and Support, also welcomed all.

Everyone in attendance introduced themselves. Along with several APS School Board Members, the APS Superintendent, APS Department Directors, and representatives from several Tribes were in attendance.

Dr. Brenda Martinez-Papponi, APS Research and Evaluation Manager, and Dr. Daisy Thompson, Indian Education Department Senior Director, presented a power point of the 2018-19 Tribal Education Status Report (TESR). The APS Research and Evaluation Manager also presented the results from the Indian Education Department Spring 2019 Parent Survey.

A question was asked regarding what efforts are made to increase the attendance at the Indian Education Department parent meetings? The Indian Education Department Senior Director replied the parent meetings are announced through the School Messenger system. Messages are sent by telephone and email. The parent meetings are also posted on the APS website and the Indian Education Department websites. A suggestion of holding Cultural Nights, Arts & Crafts Nights, and providing child care, could perhaps increase parent attendance. Another question was asked regarding the Parent Survey, 3, 091 surveys were mailed out and only 227 completed surveys were returned. It was suggested that technology and electronic avenues be considered such as Survey Monkey.

The Lieutenant Governor of the Pueblo of Isleta questioned why is it so difficult to get data from APS regarding the students from Isleta and other Pueblos? The Los Lunas School District and the Bernalillo School District are able to provide data to the Tribes. The response was FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) regulations must be followed. Parent permission needs to be given for each individual student's data. Also, MOA's (Memorandum of Agreement) and MOU's (Memorandum of Understanding) need to be in place between a Tribe and APS.

The APS Research and Evaluation Manager stated data is available on the SAPR (Strategic Analysis and Program Research) website: SAPR@aps.edu.

One Pueblo representative stated APS referred an APS student back to the Pueblo for counseling but provided no parent information to the Pueblo.

The APS Superintendent stated there is a breakdown of communication and APS needs to strengthen that communication bridge.

Another Pueblo representative stated she has been trying to work with APS, working for different agencies, for the past seven years. There is no transparency in APS. The State of New Mexico is always telling the different Tribes that data can be shared.

Another comment was that their Tribe received no invitation to this Tribal Leaders Summit. They heard about it and the other events on the television news. So how is APS and the Indian Education Department reaching out to the different Tribes?

The Indian Education Department Senior Director stated all New Mexico tribes were sent emails and hard copies of today's Tribal Leaders Summit, and follow-up telephone calls were made. She gave an example of information being sent to a specific Pueblo. The Governor and other Pueblo officials stated they never received anything. It turned out one of the Secretaries had the information but never shared it with the Pueblo officials. So things like this do occur. The Indian Education Department Senior Director will work harder in getting information about meetings to the Tribal communities.

A question was asked regarding House Bill 250. One of the requirements is tribal consultation. How does APS plan to move forward with this? The Indian Education Department Senior Director stated there is a Fall and Spring Tribal Leaders Summit each year. During the Fall Tribal Leaders Summit, data is shared with the different Tribes. The Spring Tribal Leaders Summit is when APS Leadership present and consult with the different Tribal leaders.

Question – Is there any effort to get feedback from any of the Native American students? The Indian Education Department Senior Director stated five high schools were visited last school year and students were asked questions regarding their overall experiences and opinions in attending APS. Also, many students come to the Indian Education Department with their families if they are having issues at their schools.

Question – What is the plan or next steps in providing services to all the Native American students in APS? There seems to be a lot of effort in collecting the 506 forms but some students have that form on file and still do not receive any services from the Indian Education Department. Parents are told there is not enough money in the budgets to hire more Resource Teachers to provide more services to more students, but many Tribal communities want to help their students but do not have access to students' information from their communities because permission is required from the parents.

The Indian Education Department Senior Director stated she is sorry if this individual feels that the Indian Education Department is unwilling to give information. Information will be provided at the upcoming Government-to-Government meeting.

A parent commented the Indian Education Department relies on federal grants to support the programs offered. The APS school district only pays for five personnel salaries. Does APS have any plans to change this in the future?

APS Superintendent replied APS works closely with New Mexico PED (Public Education Department) and the legislature. Last year the legislature was able to provide APS with much needed funding which paid for the increase in teacher salaries which is a priority if the District wants to compete in retaining present teachers and recruit new teachers. Also, an extra 25 school days were added to the school year parameter. Should a department have data which documents the need for added funding, a plan of action can be submitted to APS for consideration.

A presentation was given by representatives from the New Mexico PED. Handouts were given out and those in attendance were asked to break into groups to discuss such topics as i.e., taking the needs assessment in working with the local Tribes. All the different groups gave their ideas on these different systemic frameworks.

The Fall Tribal Leaders Summit concluded with a few words from the New Mexico PED Deputy Secretary of Identity, Equity, and Transformation, Kara Bobroff.