

Stakeholders Committee Meeting  
Indian Education Conference Room  
March 6, 2020

The eighth Stakeholders Committee Meeting was held on Friday, March 6, 2020, at the Alice and Bruce King Educational Complex.

The following were in attendance:

Dr. Daisy Thompson – Dine, Indian Education Department Director;

Philip Farson, Indian Education Department Instructional Manager;

Nicole Shaw – Dine, APS Parent;

Dr. Lloyd Lee – Dine, University of New Mexico (UNM) Professor, and a member of the City of Albuquerque Commission on American Indian and Alaska Native Affairs;

Denise Gomez – Pueblos of Laguna and Taos, Wilson Middle School Assistant Principal;

Pablo Padilla – Pueblo of Zuni, APS Parent.

The Indian Education Department Director gave updates from APS and the Indian Education Department.

Five finalists have been announced for the Superintendent position.

The Spring Tribal Leaders Summit will be held on Thursday, March 19, 2020, at the Berna Facio Professional Development Complex. The Pueblo Tribal Leaders will meet in the morning, beginning at 9 a.m., and the Navajo Nation Tribal Leaders will meet in the afternoon, beginning at 1 p.m.

The Indian Education Director and Instructional Manager have met with various Pueblo officials who have students included in the Impact Aid application. Also, they and Pueblo of Zia tribal officials, met with students and families who are experiencing difficulties such as discrimination in APS.

The Navajo Nation Scholarship Office will be meeting with Junior and Senior high school students on the evening of March 23, 2020.

APS Parent suggested that all high school students be included. The Director will advise the Indian Education Readiness Counselor to extend the invitation to include all high school students.

The Gradpoint Credit Recovery Program is in session every Monday and Wednesday afternoons at Valley High School. Gradpoint will also be held during the Indian Ed summer program.

The annual Senior Banquet will be held on Thursday, April 30, 2020.

The annual fashion show will be held on April 7, 2020.

Plans are being made for the Navajo Nation Vital Statistics Office to come to Albuquerque to assist Navajo families enroll their students. The Indian Education Department will find a location once a definite date has been determined. The Pueblo of Zuni sent representatives in November to do this for their students. The three-day event celebrating Native American Heritage Month will be held again in November. Indian Ed will again partner with First Nations. Language Pathways with the University of Wisconsin have held two Professional Development sessions with Indian Ed Resource and Native Language Teachers. The professional development involves in-depth, well-planned instruction in writing.

The “meet and greet” with the Native American community will be held either on March 25 or 26, 2020, depending on the availability of the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center. The Indian Education Director stated the APS Board of Education holds meetings on Wednesday evenings so if the “meet and greet” is on March 25, no School Board Members will be in attendance. However, School Board Members will be attending the Tribal Leaders Summits.

The UNM Professor stated he does not know how many people are going to attend, so perhaps an information sheet could be provided on what is happening in APS and with the Stakeholders Committee, i.e., when the Stakeholders Committee meets and the conversations that have taken place, and what still needs to happen. Some people did not attend the first Open Forum, and some people are still upset with APS.

APS Parent suggests the event should be informal. She does not think the Stakeholders Committee should be on a stage like the previous Open Forum. Community members should be able to approach the Stakeholders Committee members to engage in conversations.

The Indian Education Director stated that if this event is informal, there still needs to be an agenda to justify any expenditures. She suggested the agenda should reflect a welcome message, the information update sheet, and then the break-out session for community members to let the Stakeholders Committee members

know of their concerns and what they want to see from the Stakeholders Committee.

The Indian Education Director stated that during the Tribal Leaders Summits, Indian Ed will gather as much information from APS Administrators on what has occurred in APS, to share at the “meet and greet”, such as the overwhelming comments from the first Open Forum, and the formation of the Stakeholders Committee. APS knows there is a Stakeholders Committee which is addressing the four main concerns of Curriculum; School Climate; Professional Development; and Language and Cultural Equity.

The District has also hired three Teacher Support Specialists whose main role in APS is Professional Development. These three individuals are under the Curriculum and Instruction Department, and have met with Shannon Romero of the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center on their Indigenous Curriculum, and also with Dr. Lloyd Lee and Dr. Glenabah Martinez of UNM, for guidance.

The Indian Education Director stated the Associate Superintendent of Equity, Instruction, Innovation, and Support, is working on a report on what other departments are doing to address the four areas of concern. There is a due date for this report. The Indian Education Department is currently under the Curriculum and Instruction (C&I) Department.

The UNM Professor asked if this report would go be available to parents?  
The Indian Education Director stated the report will probably be posted on the APS website.

APS Parent asked the name of the report?

The Indian Education Director replied, OEISS, which is an annual report. Committee members can search the APS website for OEISS.

APS Parent asked if the report will include updates from the Native American community other than from Indian Ed?

The Indian Education Director stated each Department will submit a report to Dr. Serna Marmol.

The APS Parent stated she does not know much about the Yazzie-Martinez lawsuit. Did Indian Ed receive any monetary support?

The Indian Education Director stated the monies APS received all went towards the teachers' raises. Public school teachers are set to get another 4% salary increase in July. All of Indian Education teachers' salaries are paid from grant applications. With this new increase, some Indian Ed teachers may be cut. The Indian Education Director has asked APS to help with Indian Ed teacher salaries but was told APS is unable to do that. The Language and Cultural (LCE) Department has a teacher in every school.

The Indian Education Director stated Virginia Chavez informed her that the Pueblo of Zuni Tribal Council meetings are now held on Fridays so that is why Ms. Chavez has been unable to attend the Stakeholder Committee meetings. The Indian Education Director asked if perhaps the meetings could be moved to Thursdays to accommodate Ms. Chavez as she is an important member of this committee, as is everyone.

Thursday, April 16, 2020, is the tentative date for the next Stakeholders Committee meeting. Stakeholder Committee members will be notified of the date and location of the next meeting.