



Dr. Daisy Thompson
DIRECTOR

Stakeholders Committee Meeting June 14, 2019

On June 14, 2019, the second Albuquerque Public Schools' Stakeholders Committee meeting was held at the Alice and Bruce King Educational Complex.

The following persons were in attendance:

Pablo Padilla Jr., - Pueblo of Zuni, Attorney specializing in Federal Indian Law;

Lloyd Lee – Diné, University of New Mexico (UNM) Associate Professor, and a member of the City of Albuquerque Commission of Indian Affairs;

Glenabah Martinez – Diné and Pueblo of Taos, UNM Associate Professor;

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

Daisy Thompson – Diné, Director, Indian Education Department;

Virginia Chavez – Pueblo of Zuni Tribal Councilwoman;

Craig Cole – Pueblo of Cochiti, Manzano High School Senior;

Nicole Shaw – Diné, APS Parent.

The Director of Indian Education referred to an email included in the handouts for all present. The email is from Aimee Milazzo, Executive Director, Curriculum and Instruction, advising of the dates to review Social Studies textbooks available for purchase. The District would like Native American community input before purchasing any of these materials.

The Director of Indian Education also referred to the handout of a draft Action Plan template. The draft plan lists the concerns raised by the Native American community during the two Native American Community Open Forums, and that the Native American community would like to see addressed by APS. The Director of Indian Education noted this draft does not include the interviews of Native American APS students. That needs to be corrected. The Director of Indian Education would like the committee to identify which of these issues are short-term or long-term goals moving forward. Some of these concerns may fall under more than one category, i.e, a concern could fall under the category of Curriculum but may also fall under the category of Professional Development. The Director of Indian Education would like the committee to make these distinctions so these items of concern do not become repetitive. As this plan of action becomes more organized, community members will be included.

The Director of Indian Education stated the school district is so large, Professional Development trainings will probably be done in groups. The Professional Development trainings need to be conducted by Native Americans recommended by the committee, not outside companies.

The Assistant Principal of Truman Middle School does not want this effort by this committee to be a “band-aid” but a long-term solution to issues in APS. As an educator in APS, she has witnessed concerns being brought to the attention of APS administration and APS administration promising to address these concerns, only to see nothing really implemented, or changes implemented in only some schools.

The APS parent sees this effort as a challenge. The previous New Mexico Governor’s administration focused on student testing and penalizing the teachers if their students’ test scores did not meet certain standards. This was unfair to the teachers. She hopes the proposed professional development training will not be viewed as another requirement that has to be met, but as an opportunity that will be beneficial to everyone, including the students.

The Director of Indian Education referred to a book, *Native Pride: The Politics of Curriculum and Instruction in an Urban Public School (Understanding Education, Social Justice and Policy)*, written by Glenabah Martinez. Ms. Martinez listed some issues that Native Americans had in 1994, i.e., decrease the Native American dropout rate; recruit and hire Native American teachers and professionals; increase educational support for Native American students with special needs. These are still issues named in the Native American Community Open Forums. Every year, the Director of Indian Education chooses a book for her teachers to read for their book study collaboration. She plans to have her teachers read this book this year.

The UNM Professor and member of the Commission of Indian Affairs for the City of Albuquerque, stated when the Commission of Indian Affairs for the city was first implemented, there were nine members. That number will now increase to 15. He also stated the Commission has two liaison positions. One liaison will work with the Albuquerque Native American community, and the other liaison will work with the different Tribal leaderships in the State. He asked in putting together this plan and forums, how is this going to be systemically implemented? Setting short-term and long-term goals is fine but it needs to be emphasized to the APS administration and School Board that these changes are continuous and sustainable.

The Director of Indian Education stated there is a pending lawsuit against APS regarding the incident at Cibola High School. She believes that is what forced APS to take steps to make changes. This committee needs to be the driving force for these changes.

The Director of Indian Education stated invitations to representatives from the Navajo Nation to be a part of this committee have, so far, been unsuccessful. The UNM Professor advised there will be a Navajo Nation Teacher Education Consortium meeting on June 20, 2019, at the Northern Arizona University that perhaps the Director of Indian Education might also attend.

Attendees then reviewed the lists of concerns under the four categories: Curriculum, School Climate, Professional Development, and Language and Culture, determining which concerns belong under which category and which concerns would be considered short-term or long-term goals.

The Director of Indian Education asked the Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction to step into the meeting to clarify some questions the committee had. The Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction stated that during this process of selecting textbooks and materials, the question has been asked “How culturally relevant is the curriculum for all grades”? She would like the curriculum to mirror the reality of who the students are. She hopes those attending the review of proposed textbooks will have recommendations of different books and materials. She stated the committee needs to prioritize what changes are going to work; the more people and input, the better.

The committee was unable to go through the whole list of concerns but will continue at the next meeting.

The next meeting of the Stakeholders Committee will be on Friday, July 19, 2019, from 9 a.m., to 12 p.m. The exact meeting conference room will be relayed to all before then.