

Stakeholders Committee Meeting
November 6, 2019

The sixth Stakeholders Committee Meeting was held on Wednesday, November 6, 2019, at the Alice and Bruce King Educational Complex.

The following persons were in attendance:

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

Daisy Thompson – Diné, Director, Indian Education Department;

Philip Farson - Instructional Manager, Indian Education Department;

Nicole Shaw – Diné, APS Parent;

Wesley Sinquah – Hopi and Pueblo of Laguna, APS Parent;

Penny Bird – Pueblo of Santo Domingo, Senior Program Manager for the Institute for American Indian Education (sitting in for Glenabah Martinez);

Virginia Chavez – Pueblo of Zuni Head Councilwoman;

Jean Mahooty – Pueblo of Zuni, Community Member.

The Indian Education Director reviewed the draft agendas for the events planned for November 14 – 16, 2019:

- Third Native American Community Open Forum;
- “Rock Your Mocs” Day at Governor Bent Elementary School, and the Fall Tribal Leaders Summit;
- Indigenous Feast and Wellness Celebration.

Rooms at the Berna Facio Professional Development Complex have been reserved for Tribal Leaders to meet with their students and families on the evening of November 15, 2019. The Pueblos of Zuni and Acoma have indicated they are interested in participating in this, however, letters from both Pueblos are needed in order to contact those students and parents.

The Indian Education Director has invited the Honorable James Mountain to do the opening prayer on either November 15, or 16, 2019. She has also invited the Navajo Nation Scholarship Office to participate in the events on November 16, 2019.

There will also be private vendors, health source providers, a job fair, and cultural demonstrations during this event.

The draft agenda for the Open Forum notes the tentative Moderator as RONALDA WARITO, however, Ms. Warito is unavailable. Another Moderator is needed. APS Parent (WS) will contact a possible Moderator. The Indian Education Director asked Dr. Lloyd Lee if he would be the backup Moderator? Dr. Lee agreed.

The minutes of the Stakeholders Committee meetings will be featured on a screen in the auditorium. These meeting minutes can be found on the Indian Education Department website.

The Director will give a review of the purpose and formulation of the Stakeholders Committee during a power point. She will also mention the other three areas of concerns which will be covered in future Open Forums: Professional Development; Curriculum; and Language and Culture.

The Stakeholders Committee members will be on the stage during the Native American Open Forum to respond to questions that will be placed in a box. The first question asks for one question or comment parents/community members would like addressed related to School Climate. The second question asks if the community would like the Open Forums to continue? The Pueblo of Zuni Head Councilwoman stated the committee has already decided to continue the Open Forums in order to cover the four topics of concern, so that question should not be asked. Instead, the second question will ask for a suggestion that addresses School Climate.

The UNM Associate Professor and member of the City of Albuquerque Commission on American Indian and Alaska Native Affairs, stated the questions from the audience should be addressed by the APS Director of School Climate, or the Associate Superintendent of Equity, Instruction, Innovation, and Support, as this committee does not know everything APS is working on. The Indian Education Director stated the Associate Superintendent of Equity, Instruction, Innovation, and Support plans to give an update on progress made by APS.

The Indian Education Director stated that since the incident at Cibola High School last year, there is a heightened awareness in APS, for example, the District developed the Director of School Climate position.

APS Parent (WS) asked how does the parent committee play a part in this? The Director stated the parent committee recently held a work session regarding their Goals and Objectives.

The Indian Education Instructional Manager reviewed a handout on School Climate which lists some of the comments and concerns raised from the last two Open Forums: Opportunities to give voice; Are Native American students, parents and community members' input acted upon?; Are actions of racism and insensitivity addressed?; Are schools inviting?; Are schools empowering the Native American students to be included and develop strong identities?; and, Are the schools communicating with the Native American parents about information and resources? A suggestion was made that the Director of School Climate should address topics on this handout, i.e., what is she doing or what has she done in regards to training APS staff? The Director of Indian Education stated this handout is to be used as a worksheet for the Stakeholders Committee only.

Discussion continued and all agreed the #1 priority is Empowerment. APS Parent (WS) inquired about any data regarding incidents at schools involving Native American students. Dr. Bird stated that incidents are required to be reported to the NMPED (Public Education Department), but questions if that is actually done.

The Indian Education Director replied there is probably not much data regarding incidents involving Native American students. The incidents are either not documented or reported.

APS Parent (WS) suggested getting small groups of kids together to talk about where they come from, their heritage, etc.

The Indian Education Director stated she will be writing a grant so the Stakeholders Committee can receive stipends. She will request that the stipend payments be retroactive. Some Stakeholders Committee members stated they would not accept a stipend for the work they are doing.

The next Stakeholders Committee meeting will be Friday, December 13, 2019, or Monday, December 16, 2019.