Attendance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tribal Council Members</th>
<th>North Dakota Department of Public Instruction Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Nancy Green Robertson – Secretary/Treasurer</td>
<td>2. Lucy Fredericks – Director, Indian/Multicultural Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Doug Yankton, Councilman</td>
<td>4. Joe Kolosky – Deputy Director, Student Support &amp; Innovation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5. Trish Arnold – Assistant Director, Safe and Healthy Schools</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key Stakeholders and Attendees:

Color Guard- Spirit Lake Tribe VFW Post 6547
Dr. Russ McDonald – United Tribes Technical College President
Jeff Olson – Superintendent
Sam Azure, Principal
Justin, School Board Member
Tate Topa Principal
Special Ed Teacher
School Staff- Educators
School Board Members

ESSA Tribal Consultation Engagement Meeting

**Overview.** The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) team met with members of the Spirit Lake Nation Tribal Chairwoman and Council Members to continue the communication, and consultation between both government entities. This was the NDDPI’s fourth meeting to participate in thoughtful and meaningful consultation with a North Dakota Native American Tribal government. This is the best way to truly engage Native communities and to improve outcomes for native students. This is a continuous process with open communication and coordination.

The consultation began with the presenting of Colors by the Color Guard- Spirit Lake Tribe VFW Post 6547. To accompany the Color presentation the Spirit Lake Singers sang the Flag and Victory Song. Spirit Lake Tribal Elder, Eugene Hale, gave the Invocation.

Spirit Lake Tribe Chairwoman, Myra Pearson welcomed the NDDPI staff members and all other stakeholders to the meeting. Chairwoman Pearson explained her and the Tribe’s support of education. She also explained how she liked how ESSA moves control to the local school boards. She compared school boards to Tribes in that they are both unique and must have input on their education systems at the local level.

**ESSA-NIEA Update.** Dr. Russ McDonald gave the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) ESSA presentation because of technical difficulties in reaching NIEA Legislative Director, Matt de Ferranti. Following the presentation, Dr. McDonald commended NDDPI’s effort in meaningful consultation and how he approves of the Department’s efforts.
ESSA Overview Update, NDDPI. During the consultation, Superintendent Kirsten Baesler and Director of Indian and Multicultural Education, Lucy Fredericks, gave an overview of the new federal education law, The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Along with an overview, the presentation highlighted how ESSA dramatically differs from the previous law, No Child Left Behind (NCLB). Most notably, ESSA gives a substantial amount of decision-making authority back to local education agencies (LEA). With this transition to local control, tribal governments play an integral part in oversight and implementation.

Mental/Behavior Health. Trish Arnold, NDDPI gave a presentation on the issues regarding severe mental and behavior issues. She explained how these issues are detrimental to a student’s learning, and a schools culture. Trish showed the trailer to Paper Tigers, a documentary film that follows the lives of several students with mental and behavioral issues, and how their school changed its philosophy on handling these students. The results are student success and a positive school culture. Trish offered her services with the Spirit Lake Nation and accompanying school districts.

Questions/Discussion/Recommendations

Dr. Russ McDonald commented on equity and poverty rates. He asked if there was a way to compare schools. He felt it would be nice to see the differences in funding between schools and districts. Education factors with facilities and maintenance. Environmental issues with safety, access to technology, how can we measure these?

Superintendent Baesler mentioned there is a fiscal transparency aspect to ESSA. This fiscal transparency expects school level funding in regarding personnel salaries, transportation and the physical plant.

Dr. McDonald brought up the issues pertaining to facilities. He asked how they address the influx of students. Can this information be available on the Dashboard? For the public to see, more of an advocacy piece?

Sam Azure Followed up on the facility issue. He brought up that he has 10 different buildings that all need repair in some form or another. Another issue was handling the education for non-Native children in BIE schools. They do not receive funding for non-Native children and it can be difficult to spread resources to educate all their students. He also asked how it is possible to show growth in students with a transient population and increase in enrollment.

Dr. McDonald brought up the transiency in elementary students, especially whose parents attend the college. Parents attending college bring children to the public school for a maximum of four years and then they leave. What makes it more difficult is that these elementary children are not in a cohort; meaning, they do not all come and go together. They are all over the board with entrance and exiting the school.

Superintendent Jeff Olson spoke about transfer students and transiency as well. This is a very difficult problem to confront on the reservations.

Vice-Chairman Douglas Yankton, Sr, mentioned the broken relationship with the Federal government. He recommended more involvement on the Federal level so the Tribes do not feel forgotten. Vice-Chairman Yankton asked what would education look like for BIE, Tribal schools and how much control will Native schools have? We have 2 different Boards, Dakota Language immersion program at the college, Education Code for Tribe. Mr. Yankton mentioned how Native Languages are very important and that is what should be a priority. He said “language must be taught early and often.”

Dr. McDonald asked if technical assistance support would be provided? Department of Public Instruction staff answered yes.

Lucy Fredericks concluded the meeting with explaining the Innovation Bill being heard in the ND Legislature and gave information on Language Grants.

Key Themes

Culture and Language. As mentioned in Belcourt, Fort Yates and New Town the Tribal Council and community members brought up that a focal point of ESSA must be the commitment to local Tribal culture and language. It is very apparent that language revitalization is very important to all the Native American Tribes in North Dakota.