

# American Indian/Alaska Native Advisory Committee

JANUARY 5, 2021

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Oregon Department of Education

## Minutes

**Present:** Chair Tamara Henderson, Vice-chair Brandon Culbertson, Vanessa Bahe, Julie Bettles, Robin Butterfield, Josh Davies, Angie Fasana, Sandy Henry, Chris Mansayon, Sonya Moody-Jurado, Angie Morrill, Leilani Sabzalian, Valerie Switzler,

**Staff:** April Campbell, Ramona Halcomb, Deleana OtherBull, Debbie Green

**ODE Staff & Partners:** Valeria Atanacio, Brian Detman, Tamara Dykeman, Shadiin Garcia, Lynne Gardner, Colt Gill, Scott Nine, Michael Reyes, Rudyane Rivera-Lindstrom, Tony Rosilez, Anya Sekino, Jeremy Wells

**Visitors:** Charlie Bauer, Stafford Boyd, Allison Davis-White Eyes, Se-ah-dom Edmo, Sanne Godfrey, Lenora Hall, Jeneen Hartley, Gaelen McAllister, McKenzie Korte, Annie Marges, Daria Martin-Bigham, Shelby Maerz, Juliana Marez, Emily McCaffrey, Dr. Karen Perez

### 1.0 Call to Order, Opening Remarks

Chair Henderson called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

#### 1.1 Opening Blessing

#### 1.2 Committee Roll Call

Roll call was conducted by Debbie Green and a quorum is present.

#### 1.3 Introductions & Welcome to Partners

Partners and guests introduced themselves for the record.

### 2.0 Review of November 4, 2020, Minutes

Committee members reviewed the minutes and no edits were suggested.

### 3.0 Office of Indian Education Updates

Deleana OtherBull provided an update on the RFP applications and Language Grants. The State Board of Education (SBE) approved an increase in the indirect rate from 5-15% and some tribes are still declining to apply for the Student and Educator Success and Language Grants due to the administrative costs in managing the grant. We are continuing internal conversations regarding the use of a tiered rate to remove any funding barriers for the tribes. The RFA deadline was extended to December 28, 2020. Even with the increase some tribes still declined to apply for the grant and the non-competitive language grants.

Mona Halcomb provided a Tribal Attendance Promising Practices (TAPP) update. This is the 5<sup>th</sup> year for the program and we are contacting experts in evaluation processes so we can do an extensive evaluation of the program. We will be releasing an RFA/RFP soon to help with that effort. TAPP Family Advocates meet monthly and are planning their yearly symposium to share successes and challenges they faced throughout this past year. Mona is working with the Title VI group which meets monthly and they are working to develop a Title VI Toolkit. The High School Success team meets with every district and Mona is attending meetings that have TAPP or Title VI programs.

April Campbell provided a Senate Bill 13 update and let the committee know that all modules are available online. The Office of Indian Education (OIE) will be adding two interns to the staff for a few months. Trinity Minahan has left ODE and we have appreciated her fabulous work on SB 13. Additionally, one more full-time position will be posted for our office by the end of this month. We will send out a notification to the advisory committee.

#### **4.0 Ready Schools Safe Learners (RSSL) Changes and ODE Goals**

Director Gill discussed the upcoming changes in the COVID-19 health metrics for Returning to In-Person Instruction would now be **advisory** rather than **mandatory** per the Governor's letter. This change will mean that decisions about returning to in-person instruction move through a local process, with guidance from ODE and OHA on how districts and schools should consider the county metrics and local conditions. ODE must realign their RSSL guidance to move elementary students to in-person instruction by February 15. Two important critical factors are to keep the community case count low and to continue implementing public health and safety protocols/requirements with fidelity. Director Gill requested feedback from committee members to be considered when updating the guidance by engaging in discussion on the following questions:

- What state or local barriers or impediments impact local decision-making for determining when to return to in-person instruction? How can ODE help?
- Should any process steps for deciding to return to in-person instruction be required? If so, what requirements do you suggest?
- What RSSL guidance changes would support the implementation of all required health and safety procedures and protocols and also allow maximum access to in-person instruction?
- What RSSL guidance remains confusing or challenging? What are your suggestions for improvement?

Committee members were asked to provide feedback on changes to the RSSL Guidance by completing a survey.

#### **5.0 Community Comment**

No public comment was submitted.

#### **6.0 Other Business, Next Meeting Agenda Items**

Vice-chair Brandon Culbertson shared his concerns about grading and how students are falling behind in large numbers due to distance learning and the current pandemic challenges. There is an increased number of students getting failing or incomplete grades. Brandon requested feedback from committee members to share ideas about how to help these students. There was a suggestion to develop listening/sharing sessions to collaborate with others to develop strategies to provide creative ways to keep students engaged. Additional suggestions included collaborating with Title VI district contacts and advocating as a body for a no-fail policy. The committee requested a workgroup be convened to discuss these issues in February. Director Campbell was asked to provide a recommendation from this group to the State Board of Education and Director Gill.

Due to the need for additional discussion time, we will be extending our meetings until noon through the remainder of the year.

One recommended agenda item for the next meeting is to discuss the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) perspective for transition documents on Indian Education specifically for the new administration in Washington D.C.

**7:00 Adjourn**

Next meeting March 2, 2021, 9 a.m. – noon.