

Minutes from CVUSD Indian Education meeting held 10-29-18

CVUSD was pleased to see a respectable turn out for this meeting including 3 elementary teachers, 2 high school teachers, SRO, JOM representative, 4 parents of Native American students, 1 representative of the YAN Wilderness Program, CVUSD Administrator-In-Charge and CVUSD Director of Federal Projects. Thank you all for attending this meeting. There was some discussion of this time being too early for the parents and possible alternative location for the meeting that is more easily accessible. For the next Indian Education Committee meeting, the time of 5:30 pm and location of the Library are being considered.

Personnel update for Title VI grant: The group reviewed the 2 goals that were set for the Title VI grant for 2018—2019 school year (1) increase cultural awareness and (2) increase academic achievement. Both of these goals were discussed at last spring's Indian Education Committee meeting. In the grant the funds have been allocated to pay for the salary of the Native language teachers, a Native American tutor and a part-time Native American Liaison. The Native American Liaison that was hired last year has resigned due to schedule conflicts. Although the tutor position has been posted since summer, it still remains unfilled. There was discussion of other possible uses for the funds such as fees for bringing in Native American authors or artist to speak to students and staff, bringing back Yan history 101 for staff professional development, a tutor for elementary Native American students or possible high school counselor.

Mrs. Witt presented the information that all but one of the CVUSD schools has received a letter grade of "C" from the Arizona Department of Education. South Verde received a lower grade of "F" but the district has already begun researching how to help this school improve. Mrs. Witt had researched the ADE website looking for additional information on the school report cards but unfortunately the most recent information on ADE's website were 2013-2014 school report cards.

Next discussion was the presentation of the fall participation data. It included awards, attendance, honor roll, Friday camps, Sports and sports teams. Clubs information was not provided but can be at the next meeting. Total district enrollment in October is 1565. A number of Native American students provided by JOM is 218. This calculates to a Native American student representation of about 13-14%. All academic and extracurricular activities are open to all students.

The 3 fold purpose of the Indian Policies and Procedures (IPPs) - (1) to facilitate equal participation of Indian children (2) to improve the communication and cooperation between CVUSD and the Indian community, and (3) to involve parents and tribal officials in planning or development of the educational programs and activities.

Minutes of the joint CVUSD Governing Board and Yavapai Apache Council meeting were provided. In an effort to increase communication, district office has begun emailing YAN council school calendars and the monthly reports by principals. Efforts were also increased in promoting this meeting using School messenger calling system, emails to all staff and parents, fliers to the high school Native American club.

Results to the Native American survey have not yet been reviewed. At this time there are less than 5 surveys returned. The survey was mailed to 187 parents of Native American students and placed on the district website. Additional copies of the survey were printed and available in the JOM room during Fall

Family roundup. Even though over 1,000 people attended this event, only one additional survey was collected. Parents did comment that the survey is too long. Mrs. Witt will work to revise and reduce the length of the survey for next school year.

Additional comments:

Supplemental reading books for the high school English programs are available in the district office for parent review and comment. The first group of books will be available to be reviewed until Nov. 13th and the second set of supplemental books will be available until Feb. 15, 2019.

Parents noted that today's time for this meeting made it difficult for many to attend. It was suggested that we move the start time back to 5:30 and perhaps use the district library as the location.

Mrs. Lawrence presented a good idea of bringing in Native American authors or artists as special speakers to present to the students. Mrs. Witt and Mrs. Lawrence will meet to begin to find possible speakers. Funds from Title VI may be used for the speaker's fee.

Teachers from first and second grade asked the JOM representative about the JOM tutor that is supposed to be servicing their grade levels. They did not feel that individual had been available enough to meet the needs of the students. It will be considered to use a portion of the Title VI funds for a part time tutor for the early elementary grades. It is also a possibility to use volunteers to help meet this need.

Dates for upcoming events were provided. JOM requested that sports schedules also be sent to the Yan to be included in their newspaper.

Thank you to each one of you for taking the time to participate in this meeting.