

CVUSD Public Hearing/Spring Semester Meeting Minutes Indian Education Committee

April 11, 2018 4:30-5:55

Attended: Vice Chairman of YAN, Larry Jackson; Delmundo Cypress, JOM Tutor; Neveah Hicks, ES Student; Jenn Ruben, YAN Wilderness Grant; Cindy Eaton, JOM; Janella Curtis, CVUSD Title VI Liaison; and Debbie Witt, CVUSD Director of Federal Projects.

The meeting began with a welcome and introduction of all individuals. Following the agenda, Ms. Witt provided an AZMERIT testing calendar to encourage attendance during the testing weeks. A handout of AZMERIT scores for school year 2016-2017 was shared. Also presented, were upcoming dates of end of the year special events. Janella is planning to send an email of the school calendars or this list to parents. Calendars are also sent home each month with students.

The committee looked at school attendance figures for second semester. Overall attendance rate is 91% and attendance of Native American students is 87%. Ms. Witt reminded the committee of the importance of attendance and how it directly correlates with academic achievement. Ideas to help increase attendance were discussed including: district-wide attendance initiative with some type of reward for good attendance, JOM rewards students for attendance and homework for the Native students, more education for parents on the value of attendance thru emails, Indian Education meetings and at tribal education events.

Student participation data was reviewed. It was noted there currently is not a middle school Native American Club. Committee would like to see one started again for next school year.

Committee discussed the next year's award from the US Department of Education for Title VI is \$37,386. This amount is down from the previous grant award by approximately \$2,500. The funds are currently used to fund the positions for the Yavapai Language teacher at the high school and the Native American Liaison. Next year the proposed grant budget is to fund the Yavapai Language teacher (1 Semester), Apache Language teacher (1 semester), Native American Liaison and a part time paraprofessional to push into core classes.

Comments and Questions: Lots of good ideas for further consideration were shared. Some of the ideas shared were: regular updates of Indian Education at CVUSD board meetings; holding Parent University at the Nation; holding parent/teacher conferences at the Nation; working together with YAN to provide information to parents at other tribal events; greater effort to include and recognize other tribes represented at CVUSD; and a transition event where Native American club students welcome and inform upcoming NA students between schools. Also, a suggestion to add additional Indian Committee meetings in Sept and June.