Indian Education Grant Consortium

Chippewa Valley Schools - L'Anse Creuse Public Schools
New Haven Community Schools - Richmond Community Schools
19120 Cass Avenue - Clinton Township, MI 48038
Phone (586) 723-2031 – Fax (586) 723-2021

Public Hearing and Parent Committee Meeting
Tuesday, January 6, 2009
Fox Elementary School at 4:00 p.m.

The purpose of this meeting is:
"…to support the local school districts in their effort to provide Indian students the opportunity to achieve high standards and meet the special educational and culturally related academic needs of American Indian and Alaska Native students." E.D.G.A.R. 34 CFR Section 9102 (a)

Chairwoman Cheryl Hilliard called the meeting to order.

I. Present: Jane Erickson, Jan Gunning, Brenda Sheppard, Victoria LaFever, Valeria Locklear, Lisa Alfonsi, Jill Stiger, Felicia Barlow, Maria Chisholm, Cheryl Hilliard, Elaine Adamo.

II. The minutes of the October 7, 2008, meeting were unanimously approved on motions by Locklear/Sheppard.

III. Meeting attendees completed a survey that assessed the Indian Education Program that specifically addressed the areas of:

a. The cultural program
b. Displays
c. Family assistance
d. Parent meetings
e. Newsletters
f. Academics
   i. Math
   ii. Reading and writing
   iii. History

Maria Chisholm collected the completed surveys for review.

A discussion ensued relating to the high failure rate of freshman taking math classes and what could be done to boost their success. Chairwoman Hilliard said that the Math Curriculum Council is grappling with this issue. Passing students struggling with math at an eighth-grade level are stymied when they reach ninth grade. She also said the state would have to adjust the math curriculum requirements statewide

Some of the ideas suggested included:

- Exploring the possibility of providing summer tutoring
- Enlisting retired auto company engineers as tutors
- Recruiting Honor Society students as tutors
- Seeking Macomb Community College math students as tutors
- Contacting the Clinton Township Seniors for tutoring help
- Contacting the Detroit Area Council Teachers of Math (DACTOM)

Each of these suggestions will be pursued.

IV. Maria Chisholm reported that Richmond and New Haven Community Schools will join our consortium for 2009/2010 school year.

There will be a workshop on Saturday, January 10. The activity will be making snow snakes.

Maria told us she has been busy working on the certifications of the enjoining districts as well as the newsletters, the website, and workshops. She will have the opportunity to attend a March meeting at the Indian Education Office in Mount Pleasant.

Ms. Erickson reported that our consortium will not exceed six participating districts.

V. The question was posed, how do we get high school students of Indian heritage to be more involved in our program? Ms. Locklear told of an activity in which she participated in Detroit. They sent a group of high school students to Ann Arbor to tour the U of M campus. They learned about scholarships, tuition waivers, and the like. She was aware of a trip to Oklahoma where the University of Oklahoma picked up the cost of the trip.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21, at Fox Elementary at 4:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m. on motions by Hilliard/Erickson.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Gunning, Secretary

The meeting was conducted using *Roberts Rules of Order* and followed the Parent Committee Bylaws, which are on file in the Indian Education Office.