

BNAS Board Report, August 2020

The year is exciting, with remote learning we are forced to innovate teaching methods for culture and language. With respect to teaching the Blackfoot Language our mission to create a uniform writing system within the schools has and will continue to prove extremely valuable with respect to remote teaching and learning and Language Revitalization. Basically, instilling a system three years ago was great preparation for remote learning. Such a good thing.

Lea Whiteford and I are moving into our office in the Napi Elementary. It is a lovely space with great lighting and air flow (It's yet to be determined if being by the kitchen and smelling all that food will either be wonderful or torture, however <insert smiley face emoji>). I thank BPS, the School Board, and the Superintendent for carving out a space for the BNAS to sit. Since I have worked here I have received nothing but support from the Board and the Superintendent- It truly makes my moral high and gives me energy.

It is also paramount to work respectfully with the Napi building and staff to ensure proper safety for all people in the building. As of now I have been accessing our office through the dining room because the exit door in our office does not open from the outside. We will be vigilant to work with Napi to ensure a healthy working environment.

Bi-Weekly Work Schedule: to mitigate risk of spread while also considering that we can perform many of our duties remotely we are going to do our best reduce contact. I schedule we think is possible is the one shared below, it would ensure that the BNAS has a person in the office while also ensuring reducing the risk of contacting the novel virus.

Day	In Office	Out of Office
Monday	R	L
Tuesday	L	R
Wednesday	L	R
Thursday	L	R
Friday	R	L
Saturday	X	X
Sunday	X	X
Monday	L	R
Tuesday	R	L
Wednesday	R	L
Thursday	R	L
Friday	L	R
Saturday	X	X
Sunday	X	X

Further Protocols:

1. In the event that someone from the BNAS office has to self-quarantine the other individual will go into office full time pending test results of the other. If the other person tests positive we will go into a two-week shutdown of our office.
2. Must be able to adapt to necessary adjustments pending the current orders and advice from the Blackfeet Tribe, the State of Montana, The School District #9, and other relevant entities.
3. When more than one person is in the BNAS office everyone is required to wear a mask
4. All visitors are encouraged to practice social distancing

As for other topics, the BNAS curriculum we designed over the summer is standing in a good place. There are minor corrections to be made and we are still created supplemental materials for each lesson plan. I'd like to personally thank BPS for providing us the opportunity to create this curriculum- all persons involved in creating it believe that it is succinct and user friendly. We are excited to see it in action.

We will figure out more details in doing remote language teaching in the coming weeks and make a solid plan after the BNAS team meets up. Thank you.

PS: this year will be tough but it is also exciting to be forced to innovate and utilize technology. I believe this will only benefit out future in education.