



**Agenda III.C.
March 27, 2025**

To: Board of Education
Dr. Chris Bellmont, assistant superintendent

From: Isis Buchanan, director of educational equity

Date: March 27, 2025

Re: Report about Written Response to Vote of Nonconcurrency

Overview:

On January 29, 2025, the American Indian Parent Advisory Committee (AIPAC) voted the resolution of nonconcurrency to express their views concerning all aspects of American Indian education and the educational needs of American Indian students enrolled in District 191 schools and programs. Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District 191 was presented with a letter of nonconcurrency at the February 27, 2025, school board meeting. The American Indian Parent Advisory Committee outlined five areas to be addressed and shared ideas for improvement. Our strategic directions include creating a space and opportunity for each and every voice to be heard. We value the insight and critical perspectives provided by the American Indian Parent Advisory Committee. Your contributions are fundamental to strengthening our partnership and guiding our collective efforts. We are committed to ensuring that this work supports increased awareness and understanding of American Indian histories, cultures, and contributions. It is our intention that these efforts lead to more equitable and affirming experiences and outcomes for Indigenous students, families, and staff throughout our district.

The five recommendations from AIPAC are listed below along with the school district's response to each recommendation.

AIPAC Recommendation 1

Review disciplinary actions and review data of middle school American Indian students

- *In-depth American Indian cultural proficiency training for teaching staff across the district*

District Response:

- District 191 has created a Data Wall using Educlimber to monitor student attendance, grades, and discipline referrals
- Student data at the middle school level will be reviewed with site administrators and shared with school staff
- We will continue to embed professional development training focused on American Indian culture, history, and language

AIPAC Recommendation 2

More recognition by/from the individual buildings of Indigenous Peoples Day and other observances of American Indian Cultural Heritage

- *More active engagement by non-Native staff, sharing of 191 AIEP events with the AI students and families*

District Response:

- District One91 will review lessons used for Indigenous People's Day and making revisions to prepare for FY 26
- Each site will develop a communication plan to share lesson information and details about American Indian Cultural observances

AIPAC Recommendation 3

Salaries of American Indian Education Program Staff need to come out of the General Education fund

- *Reserving program funding resources for its intended purpose, American Indian Students - many districts such as Osseo, 196, and Cottage Grove pay their Indian Education staff directly from General Education Funding*

District Response:

- District 191 is in the process of developing the FY 26 budget and will review the source of funds used to pay for the American Indian Cultural Specialist and Indigenous Cultural Liaison and share the information with AIPAC members

AIPAC Recommendation 4

Provide cultural space and staffing for smudging space in each building

- *Section 1.[121.A.08] Minnesota Statutes*

District Response:

- District 191 has reviewed and revised policy 419-Tobacco-Free Environment; Possession and Use of Tobacco, Tobacco-Related Devices, and Electronic Delivery devices to include MN Statute language about smudging
- District 191 will seek clarification on the request for space and identify staff members who will be trained to support students who may smudge during the school day

AIPAC Recommendation 5

Provide cultural trunks for each school for staff to use

- *These trunks are to be a collection of culturally appropriate pieces provided by the district and approved by AIPAC. Currently our 191 AIEP has one learning trunk that teachers across the district are able to check out throughout the school year to help support their teaching of American Indian Curriculum. They Include Ojibwe, Dakota, and Powwow trunks. These trunks are in high demand during a variety of units that are being taught throughout the year and it would be beneficial for students to have their own trunks to support teaching the AI state standards.*

District Response:

- District 191 will create a plan to create cultural trunks for each school site and work with AIPAC to identify what resources should be included in each site's cultural trunk
- District 191 will review budgetary costs of the items and establish a timeline for completion
- District 191 will work with our SISA team to ensure the cultural trunk resources connect to MN state standards and align with grade level learning outcomes

Conclusion:

The District 191 School board has an unwavering commitment to foster a welcoming and supportive environment for each student. We deeply appreciate the collaboration and partnership shared with our American Indian Parent Advisory Committee. The collaboration and engagement between our dedicated parents and staff members are paramount as we work to ensure we are meeting the needs of American Indian students.