



Board Meeting Date: May 13, 2024

Title: Response to American Indian Vote of Non-Concurrence for American Indian Education Aid

Type: Action

Presenter(s): Dr. Frannie Becquer, Director of Achievement Equity and Multilingual Learner Programming

Description: Schools with more than 10 American Indian students enrolled must establish an American Indian Education Parent Advisory Committee (AIPAC). Edina Public Schools has close to 100 American Indian students.

AIPACs serve in an advisory role to the district to help ensure American Indian students receive culturally relevant and equitable educational opportunities. Yearly, the AIPAC must meet and discuss whether or not they concur with the educational offering that the district has extended to American Indian students. If they believe the district has not met the needs of the American Indian students, they issue a vote and resolution of nonconcurrence. If a vote of nonconcurrence is issued, the board is required to respond in writing to each recommendation within 60 days of the recommendation being brought forth.

On **March 26th**, the AIPAC presented a vote of non-concurrence and a list of 15 recommendations.

On **April 23rd**, Frannie Becquer, PhD, Director of Achievement Equity and Multilingual Learner Programming, presented an update to the school board about the resolution and provided the board with information to make decisions about their response.

Recommendation: All Board members will sign the written reply per [Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.78, subdivision 1](#)

Desired Outcome(s) from the Board: The letter of reply will be presented at the board meeting.

Attachment(s): Board letter of response to recommendation.

Response to recommendations

1. Hire a full-time American Indian Cultural Liaison (#1 - This corresponds with the recommendation number on the list shared by the AIPAC)
 - a. Working with Director Woodward, Finance, and Director Sailor, Human Resources.
 - b. Funding for the position is provided through the A and I grant and American Indian Education Aid (AIEA). To use AIEA funds, families must agree to the expenditure, and only 50% of the funds can be used towards salaries.
 - c. A permanent person on staff will be hired. Responsibilities of this cultural liaison are guided by the six focus areas found within [Minnesota Statutes 124D.74, subdivision 1](#):
 - i. Support post-secondary preparations for students
 1. The cultural liaison will regularly meet with high school students, provide academic and career mentoring, and develop college and career readiness opportunities for them.
 - ii. Support the academic achievement of American Indian students
 1. The liaison is part of the team that evaluates and reviews student academic data.
 - iii. Make curriculum relevant to the needs, interests, and cultural heritage of American Indian students
 1. The liaison will work with teachers to understand course units of instruction and will be a resource for developing classroom lessons that incorporate the heritage of American Indian students.
 - iv. Provide positive reinforcement of the self-image of American Indian students
 1. The liaison will work with groups of students at each of Edina Public Schools buildings
 - v. Develop awareness among students, parents, and staff
 1. The cultural liaison will work with the Director of Achievement Equity and Multilingual Learner Programming to embed awareness of American Indian heritage into current Culturally Proficient School Systems (CPSS) training.
 - vi. Supplement (not supplant) state and federal educational and co-curricular programs
 1. The cultural liaison will plan and support cultural events for students.
 - d. In addition, the cultural liaison will act as a liaison between the district and the AIPAC. They will work with the Director of Achievement Equity and Multilingual Learner Programming to complete the American Indian Education Aid application and monitor fidelity of goals.
2. Native American District Employees Fairly compensated (#3)

- a. District employees doing their work outside of contractual time will continue to be timecarded for the additional work they do to support native students.
- 3. Staff complete MDE Tribal Relations Training (#5)
 - a. In 2023 state legislators created a new licensure renewal requirement on the cultural heritage of American Indians. All licensed staff are required to take the training through the state.
 - b. See 1.c.v. above.
- 4. Continue work on curriculum development (#5)
 - a. In partnership with Teaching and Learning see 1. c. iii above.
- 5. District creates visual representation (#6)
 - a. The cultural liaison will work with AIPAC to determine what this could look like.
- 6. All family events are held after all school has dismissed (#7 & #8)
 - a. The cultural liaison will work with the AIPAC to coordinate events to be inclusive of all families next year.
- 7. Budget (#9 and #10)
 - a. The Director of Achievement Equity and Multilingual Learner Programming and the cultural liaison will work with AIPAC to create a budget that is in accordance with MDE guidelines and State Statutes. The budget will be available for regular review.
- 8. Communication (#11)
 - a. With hiring a cultural liaison, communication with families will become streamlined and more consistent.
- 9. Celebrate Indigenous People's Day (#12)
 - a. The Director is working with the AIPAC to provide a distinct cultural event celebrating Indigenous Peoples day.