

January 15, 2025

Dear Board Members And Dr. Battle,

The American Indian Parent Advisory Committee of District 191 has issued a vote of Non-Concurrence at our meeting for the 2024-2025 school year. The AIPAC has identified areas that need to be addressed and ideas for improvement based on conversations with staff, students, and families both native and non-native within the district.

- ❖ 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
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ 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 Ed staff directly from General Education Funding.
- ❖ Provide cultural space and staffing for smudging space in each building
 - Section 1.[121.A.08] Minnesota Statutes
- ❖ 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 1 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.

We would like to acknowledge the support district 191 has provided throughout our existence. We support the steps towards meeting the educational and cultural needs of our Native American students and we appreciate the efforts of our Native American Liaison Maddison McKinney and our Equity and ML Services Director Isis Buchanan. We value and acknowledge the support of our school board members and superintendent.

As per MDE guidelines, we expect a written response from the school board to each of the above recommendations within 60 days of receipt of this letter. The AIPAC is available to dialogue with the school board members that are assigned to respond to this letter.

Sincerely,

191 American Indian Parent Advisory Committee