

BNAS Board Report for October 2, 2018

On September 24th the BNAS and Immersion staff had a professional development in regards to the writing system. All except for two staff members attended. The PD went excellent. I have attached the proper documents that lay out the exercises and drills we went covered to help our staff understand the writing system more. I do believe that it was critical to have and that our Blackfoot Language Instructors ought to have a PD *at least* once a month to reign in our direction and to provide viable language teaching methods. It is also critical to note that regardless if a percentage of the staff is still unconvinced that the direction the BNAS is heading is not their cup of tea we must follow suit and accept that uniformity and consistency will only help our students in the long haul.

I have gotten times and schedules of almost all staff to provide bi-weekly visits with the emphasis on providing materials and methods for language teaching. On top of that I am very happy and excited for what the years has to offer in going to Babb, the Blackfeet Junior Academy, and the William Buffalo Hide. My goal is to not only focus on language but also media for the WBH and BJA students as an option to record interviews and practice journalism to be played on the radio (once I get going on that).

Six of our BNAS/immersion staff members will be attending the Blackfoot Language Symposium in Lethbridge from Oct. 22-24th. I was asked by the committee putting it on to give the keynote opening address which I committed to with the caveat that they pay my lodging and allow our staff to register for free, which they agreed to do. I believe it is paramount for our staff to create and have connections to our kin up north and meet potential allies and teachers regarding our Blackfoot Language.