

## **AIPAC Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, February 2nd, 2026 4:30 pm- 5:30 pm on Zoom**

Attendees: Holly Henning (Chair, parent), Tess Buescher (Co-chair, parent), Missy Johnson (Academic Director)

### **Outcomes of the Meeting:**

- Introductions
- Explanation of AIPAC and why it exists
- Fill out Annual Compliance document
- Discuss date for next meeting

### **The Why of AIPAC:**

A Minnesota school's AIPAC is a group of parents who partner with school staff to create goals for successful American Indian parent and student engagement. We should define a structured method for evaluating and measuring the determination of whether or not American Indian students are being served at Nova Classical.

AIPACs must be comprised primarily of parents of American Indian students within the district. American Indian secondary students and American Indian district staff are also eligible to serve on the committee, as are American Indian community members.

### **Annual Compliance Requirements for MN Department of Education:**

Annual Compliance (Vote of Concurrence or Nonconcurrence)

- Each year, the AIPAC makes a determination on whether or not they believe the school is serving the American Indian students well. This determination is either that the AIPAC agrees that the district or school is serving the students well (a vote of concurrence), or that the AIPAC feels that the district or school needs to address the programs for American Indian students in a better or more defined way (a vote of nonconcurrence.)
  - There was discussion. Members shared that as parents, they were happy to see American Indian representation in Language Arts reading (The Birchbark House) and History projects where their students could engage in red willow harvest or construct a dreamcatcher. Members also shared that teachers at Nova Classical have done a good job advocating for native students (reading books regarding inclusion and culture) as a response to other students' teasing.
  - Members wondered about resources available to older American Indian students (Upper School) such as cultural connections, access to healing, and continued exposure to American Indian representation.
  - During discussion about how AIPAC has received data on how students are faring, there was discussion if NCA could find a way to look at American Indian data from a larger lens. Individual student data is shared with parents/guardians through our online

- student result folders since our American Indian student count is not large enough to show up on the MDE report card.
- Ultimately, the newly-formed AIPAC is submitting a **vote of nonconcurrence** to the board for the 2025-26 school year with the following recommendations for improvement:
    - Define resources available for Upper School American Indian students
    - Gather and discuss data on how American Indian students are faring at Nova Classical
    - Expand AIPAC membership to eligible Upper School American Indian students

Submit to the Board: Above Minutes, PDF Titled “SY2025-26 Annual Compliance Docs 4098”

- District Requirements Under Minnesota Statutes (some Districts have less than 20 however more than 5 percent American Indian students)
- The American Indian Parent Advisory Committee (AIPAC) Roster
  - Molly Henning, Chair
  - Tess Buescher, Co-Chair