

School Board Meeting:

March 22, 2010

Subject:

American Indian Advisory
Committee Resolution

Presenter:

Pam Miller

SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:

Report only. No action required.

DESCRIPTION:

State law requires that school districts which enroll ten or more American Indian students establish an American Indian Advisory Committee to afford parents the opportunity to express their views concerning educational needs of the American Indian children enrolled in the school district.

The Advisory Committee must pass a resolution indicating satisfaction with the district's current programs in meeting the needs of the American Indian students, or make recommendations to the school board to improve educational opportunities for these students.

Our district has just over fifty students who are self-identified as having an American Indian background. Each of these student's families were invited to participate in the American Indian Advisory Committee meeting held on January 10, 2010. Three parents and one student participated in the committee meeting. The following staff members also participated: Vicki Cary, Diversity Coordinator; Dave Robinson, BHS English Teacher; Matt Lubben, BCMS Assistant Principal; Jenina Rothstein, Intervention Specialist; and myself.

The parents were asked to respond to the following questions:

1. What are the unique educational needs of the American Indian child that may be different from children of other backgrounds?
2. How has the school district successfully met those needs?
3. How can we better meet the needs of American Indian children?

Parents reported very positive overall satisfaction with the district's programs for their students, and provided some good suggestions to consider, but none of the suggestions were particular to the needs solely of American Indian children.

The resolution developed and passed by the committee is attached. This resolution will now be submitted to the Minnesota Department of Education.