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# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

## Title VI Advisory Committee Meeting

September 21, 2016 Borough Building, Soldotna, AK

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MEMBERS PRESENT:	Carolyn Choate John Kelly Rebecca Dixon Monica Anderson John Kelly	Homer Flex KPBSD School Board (via Lync) Seward (via Lync) Homer Middle/West Homer (via Lync) School Board Liaison (via Lync)
STAFF PRESENT:	Conrad Woodhead Timothy Vlasak Maribeth Snell Jennifer Freeman Bonnie Pierce Jane Beck Pam Potter Krystalynn Scott Julie Williams Michael Hanson	KPBSD Native Education Coordinator Director, Federal Programs and K-12 Schools Grants Specialist/Title I/Title VII/Migrant Ed. Project GRAD Project GRAD Project GRAD Principal, Tebughna School Teacher, Skyview Middle Data Analyst, KPBSD Coordinator, KPBSD
PUBLIC PRESENT:	Shannon Dodge David J. Knight John Holland Suzanne Labelle Elizabeth Standifer Nadia Walluk Curtis Constantine Reka Smoke Sharon Jones	Kenaitze Kenaitze KPBSD Student KPBSD Student (via Lync) Parent, Tebughna KPBSD Student KPBSD Student KPBSD Student KPBSD Student

### **I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Conrad Woodhead opened the meeting with introductions of committee members, staff and public present at the meeting. He also noted that this was the first meeting under the new name for the act, Title VI.

### **II. PURPOSE**

Conrad then reiterated the purpose of KPBSD's Title VI program, which is to provide supplemental supports for Alaska Native and American Indian students for a successful experience throughout K-12 schooling years through prioritized targeted assistance.

### **III. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

Nominations for Committee members were sought through recommendations from KPBSD staff, community members and a media release. All nominations were unopposed. The due date for nominations was September 20, 2016 but nominations will continue to be accepted for open seats. Rebecca Dixon indicated that she would submit hers the following day. The nominations are:

KPBSD Title VI Advisory Committee Nominations

#### **Parent Representative Nominations** *Any KPBSD Title VI student parent*

- Seat A—Region 1 (Tyonek, Nikiski, Kenai)
  - **Elizabeth Standifer** (Tyonek)

- Seat B—Region 2 (Sterling, Soldotna)
  - **Michael Bernard** (Sterling)
- Seat C—Region 3 (Seward, Moose Pass, Cooper Landing, Hope)
  - **Rebecca Dixon** (Seward)
- Seat D—Region 4 (Ninilchik, Anchor Point, Homer)
  - Monica Anderson (Homer)
  - **Carolyn Choate** (Homer)
- Seat E—Region 5 (Seldovia, Nanwalek, Port Graham)
- Seat F—At-large (any region)
  - **Monica Anderson** (Homer)
  - Carolyn Choate (Homer)
  - Elizabeth Standifer (Tyonek)
  - Michael Bernard (Sterling)

**Student Representative Nominations** *Any KPBSD Title VI enrolled student*

- Seat G—At-large
  - **Nadia Walluk** (Kenai)
- Seat H—At-large
  - **John Holland** (Soldotna)

**Staff Representative Nominations** *Any KPBSD employee*

- Seat I—At-large
  - Carolyn Choate (Homer)(Works at Homer Flex)
  - **Krystalynn Scott** (Soldotna)(Works at Skyview Middle School)

Conrad added that Committee meetings are open and public and input from any interested community members is welcome. Eventually formal positions of a Committee Chair and Vice Chair will be established. These will be discussed at the next meeting.

**IV. TITLE VI IDENTIFICATION AND NEW ED 506 FORM**

Over 114 Alaska Native Tribal affiliations represented in the over 1200 identified Native students. There are 20 different Native languages in Alaska (two main ones in KPBSD are Dena'iana and Sugcestun/Sug'sten). The diversity of such a small area can bring complications when applying for grants because targeting specifics, such as language, narrows the targeted population to be served. Title VI students are identified by the newly revised federal ED 506 form. The form has been revised to allow guardians as well as parents to sign the form. PowerSchool demographics must match what is indicated on the ED 506 form.

**V. TITLE VI PROGRAM UPDATES**

ANSEP (Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program) participation remains a priority for the “targeted assistance” part of KPBSD’s Title VI purpose and this will be our third year of participation. Middle school students grade 6-8 who are on track for high school level algebra by the 8<sup>th</sup> grade may apply for ANSEP. The district will recruit at least 12 students for the February academy in partnership with the Lower Kuskokwim School District. Since participation is limited to one time, KPBSD is considering creating a similar program to build on the skills and enthusiasm students gain when attending ANSEP. Last year, 48 students participated, which shortened our available pool of students who can participate this year. ANSEP no longer pays for the Academy, and participation costs \$3,000 per student—another motivation for KPBSD to design its own ANSEP-like academy. Rebecca Dixon asked if participation is district-wide. While

ANSEP participation is available to all qualifying students, our funding source is restricted to Title VI students, which is another reason KPBSD is committed to creating our own program. Conrad continued the update reporting on a national shift in focus for Title VI programs. Under the new ESSA, districts are encouraged to focus on

- Language
- Partnering with tribal entities
- Culture—tying culture in to the classroom

Much of the reason for this shift in focus is based on the 2014 Native Youth Report issued by President Obama, which found the following:

- More than one in three American Indian and Alaska Native children live in poverty.
- The American Indian/Alaskan Native high school graduation rate is 67 percent, the lowest of any racial/ethnic demographic group across all schools. The most recent Department of Education data indicate that the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) schools fare even worse, with a graduation rate of 53 percent, compared to a national average of 80 percent.
- Suicide is the second leading cause of death—2.5 times the national rate—for Native youth in the 15 to 24 year old age group.

Native Youth Report, Executive Office of the President  
December 2014

[https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/20141129nativeyouthreport\\_final.pdf](https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/20141129nativeyouthreport_final.pdf)

KPBSD graduation statistics are:

- Overall graduation rate-82.73%
- Native graduation rate-80.43%

The Native Youth Report makes the following recommendations:

- Strengthen tribal control of education.
- Provide comprehensive, community-based student supports.
- Strengthen the integration of native cultures and languages into school climate and classrooms.
- Support highly effective teachers and school leaders (only 5% of teachers in Alaska schools are Alaska Native)
- Promote 21<sup>st</sup> century technology for tribal education.
- Strengthen and expand efforts that target suicide prevention.
- Improve community systems of care to better address the behavioral needs of Native youth.

## **VI. PARTNERSHIP UPDATES**

Members present from our partnership organizations gave updates on their programs.

### **A. Project GRAD/KPNYL**

Jennifer Freeman presented an update for Project GRAD/KPNYL highlighting recent students attended in order to earn their leadership credits. This summer, four students attended the Generation I National Training in Anchorage, fifteen attended the Summer College Institute, eight attended the National Unity Conference in Oklahoma City, and two had internships with the Kenaitze Indian Tribe. In August, 32 students attended the Cultural Exchange Institute, which included eight students from Hydaburg, AK. KPNYL students entered 52 projects in the Kenai Peninsula Fair. In September, four students will attend the Unity Native Youth Training in Anchorage and school site meetings will begin in October and students in the program will work as assistant meeting facilitators and assist with recruiting. October 20-23 will be the fall Phlight Club, which is a social, emotional and leadership development event. Students will have other opportunities to go offsite, including attending the Alaska Federation of Natives.

Schools that will be served this year:

- Seldovia 7-12

- Homer HS
- Homer Flex
- Soldotna HS
- Soldotna Prep
- Skyview 7-8
- Kenai HS
- Kenai Alternative 7-12
- Nikiski 7-12
- Seward HS
- Nanwalek 7-12
- Port Graham 7-12
- Ninilchik 7-12
- Tyonek 7-12

Suzanne Labelle attended the Unity Conference in Oklahoma City and shared some of her experiences. The conference was attended by 1,400 people and the theme was Our Sisters' Voice and focused on violence against women.

John Holland shared some of his experiences from the Cultural Exchange Institute. Attendees had the opportunity to learn about different cultures and attend a pow wow at the end. He is looking forward to doing it again.

### **Kenaitze**

David Knight presented the update for the Kenaitze Indian Tribe. Susan Crane, a retired teacher, has been hired to serve at Mt. View Elementary and also with the Yaghanen Youth Program. She also attended the Yaghanen camps during the summer. She assessed the students at Mt. View and identified 21 students to serve based on test scores. Another tutor candidate is in the final stages of the hiring process to work at Kenai Middle School. This candidate is also a retired teacher and highly qualified.

Kenaitze distributed five scholarships totally \$75,000 and have helped 62 students with educational funding. Through the WIOA program, they placed 5 interns, one at the Dena'ina Wellness Center, one at the Elders Center, one with Tribal Government, one with the Housing Assistance Program and their Early Childhood Center. These placements provide opportunities for students to build their resumes and employment schools. One internship placement resulted in employment.

Michael Bernard reported on the Yaghanen Youth Construction Academy Camp. Eight youths attended and learned how to build a cabin and wire it for a generator. Conrad asked if tutoring has increased Yaghanen's numbers. Michael stated that while Yaghanen's numbers have increased, he's not sure if it's due to the tutoring.

## **VII. MISCELLANEOUS**

Near the conclusion of the meeting, miscellaneous topics were discussed:

### **Title VI Information/Education**

Tim Vlasak discussed the PowerPoints on the KPBSD website that explain many of the district's federal funding sources. Principals are asked to present two of them every year to their site cancel meetings and eventually rotate through all of them. Bonnie Pierce suggested having a mechanism in place, such as social media, to assist student reps to educate fellow students about Title VI and KPNYL.

### **Tebughna Tutor**

Elizabeth Standifer reported that the new tutor paid through the Tyonek Foundation Grant was going well.

### **Title VI Breakdown**

Caroln Choate asked about the breakdown of Title VI funds. Conrad reported that funds are allocated according the following priority:

- 1) Title VI Site Tutors
- 2) Project Grad/KPNYL Oversight
- 3) ANSEP
- 4) Small amount towards administration

Title VI funding is based on a ratio, not necessarily number of Title VI students. Last year the number of Title VI students increased by 68 and funding went from \$438,000 to \$473,000.

### **VIII. ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned with the next meeting set for November 9, 2016 from 3:00-4:30pm.