Indian Education Committee

October 2, 2018

Minutes

The meeting was held in the Neshoba Central High School Library Media Center. In attendance were Dr. Penny Hill, Rachel Kiepe, Kelly Tubby, and Doreen Carey. Dr. Hill opened the meeting with discussion about how to promote better communication about committee meetings. It was decided to create a Remind account to message all committee members. Rachel Kiepe committed to taking care of that by the end of the week.

Committee members introduced themselves to the group. Dr. Hill started discussion with making a distinction between the Impact Aide Grant and Title VI Indian Education grant. It was noted that Native American Parents needed a clear understanding of two grants. This would help with any questions or possible resistance to signing the survey.

The Tribal Parental Involvement and Education Policy was reviewed and discussed. Misty Dreifus will be contacted to help disseminate information about the Impact Aid Grant Survey and the IPP (Indian Policies and Procedures).

The committee will review policies further before the next meeting. Policies will be edited if needed and approved at the next meeting on November 27, 2018.

Rachel Kiepe shared the cultural education programs funded by Novo Foundation Cultural Education Grants. They are as follows:

NOVO Foundation 2017-2018 Grant

This project creates Native American Cultural MakerSpaces where Choctaw students can develop and share their cultural diversity with non-Choctaw peers. It will give them a chance to be leaders, experts, and mentors in the areas Native American arts, crafts, history, and folklore. It will bring in elder Choctaw Tribal members to teach high school tribal members about Choctaw arts, crafts, and folklore. The students will develop these skills in library MakerSpaces that would include Native American beadwork, basket making, storytelling, dancing, drumming, and cooking. They will demonstrate and teach other non-Choctaw students about their culture. They will create presentations and do research with a new library collection of Native American books. These books will be Accelerated Reader books that all students can read then take the comprehension quizzes. The books will give all students opportunities to learn more about all Native American tribes. Student presentation will be presented to elementary and middle school classes. Choctaw students in these grades will be mentored in tribal cultural activities and history by high school Choctaw student mentors.

NOVO Foundation 2018-2019 Grant Project

Neshoba County School district’s 2018-2019 SEL project will build on the hands-on training and research on Choctaw culture from our 2017-2018 project. Our Native American students, with assistance from our general student population, in grades K-4 through 12 will compile their research material into a student-produced book about the Mississippi Band of Choctaws. Videos about their tribe’s arts, crafts, history, language, and folklore will be student created for the school webpage and a YouTube channel. The focus of these two project is to strengthen student understanding of "Choctaw Self-determination" and share that with the global community.

Future grant possibilities:

NOVO offers a $225,000 for innovative learning communities. Grant project focus will be the following: (waiting to see if the RFP opens in a few weeks)

* Choctaw Language lab in the library media center
* Develop of a Native American Studies Curriculum and textbook.
* Language, History, and Cultural online classes to be developed and shared globally.
* Spring Festival at NCHS

The next meeting is set for November 27, 2018 at 6 pm in the NCHS Library Media Center.