

**Mountain Empire Unified School District**  
Education and Instructional Services Department



**Title VI: American Indian Education Committee**  
**Thursday, October 26, 2023**  
**La Posta Tribal Office**  
**12:30-2:30 pm**  
**Agenda & Meeting Minutes**

- Welcome & Introductions**
  - Title VI meeting was call to order at 12:34pm by Amy Conforth
  - La Posta Tribal members welcome everyone, Amy C. thanked La Posta for hosting the first meeting of the year and introduction begun (see attached list of attendees)
- Announcements & Agenda Review**
  - Amy Conforth announced changes to the agenda
    - Alt Ed Principal was not able to attend as he was at School Safety Conference
    - Dr Keeley had to leave the meeting early due to another appointment
    - Stacy Block was not in attendance at the start time of the meeting
  - Ann Pierce made the motion to accept the agenda changes Bill Dobson Second the motion, all were in favor.
  - A motion to approve the meeting minutes from the previous meeting was made by, Cherie Foraker and seconded by, Bill Dobson
  - A question arises about who could make motions and second them, Amy C clarified that the committee does not have voted member, anyone preferably who was present at the meeting may make the motions
  - All in favor and minutes were approved
  - Is Title VI or Title VII
    - Title VI Part A is the name of the fund granted to the District
      - Supports the efforts to meet the unique educational academic needs of American Indian and Alaska Native students
    - Title VII - is Impact Aid a separate entity that provides additional funds to provide better services
  - What would be a more meaningful name for this committee?
    - In the past it used to be called Indian Education because this is more than just government funds. District is required to consult with Tribal members and obtain feedback on the Districts LCAP (one of the many purposes of the committee)

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- Comments arised that the purpose of the committee should be included in the name(Collaboration & Advisory)
  - Dr Keely's idea for Indian Education Alliance came into motion by Ann Pierce and second by Julie Dome
- Program Data Overview**
  - American Indian/Alaska Native Enrollment**
    - When the students are enrolled in any school in the United States they are identified by codes. American Indian and Alaskan Native is 2 different codes
    - The state reports that there are 74 students enrolled in Mountain Empire that are recognized as American Indian & Alaskan Natives
    - In an internal report the district found that there 232 AI/AS students registered in the district. It was discovered that even if they recognized themselves as 2 different races in Aeries the state only counts the first one, making this situation a concern.
    - Dr Keeley asked Staci Block from the SDCOE what can be done to solve the problem and the discounting of students that is causing disadvantages as far as funding for all those students that are not being counted
    - Staci Block Introduced herself and apologized for being late. She mentioned that this is a state wide problem and there are studies that recognize that about 16,000 students are not being identified and counted properly. She recommended Dr Keeley reach out to the State Representative.
    - Amy gave a breakdown comparison with the state and internal reports by grade and school site enrollment.
    - Based on ethnicity enrollment application 201 AI and AS students are without a 506e form
      - Action steps: In October district enlisted the support of Becky Blackwood
      - Inclusion in Aeries Parent Portal for new enrollment
      - Inclusion in the Parent-Student Handbook
      - Digital tracking
    - Ideas for the District to implement and improve the number of families who submit the 506e form
      - Finding easy to educate parents in the importance of completing the forms

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- Suggestions: placing information tables at every event at every site, Include the form in the registration packet.
- Staci B mentions the existence of a video from another state that touches on this subject and may be able to support the information that is provided to the parents.
- Debbie from Campo suggests each tribal leader obtains access to the internal report to see if they may be able to help in collecting these forms.
- County will update to a digital form in 2024
- Student Academic Outcomes**
  - The California Dashboard Academic Indicators show that within our district the majority of student are not improving and are struggling in many areas
    - 22-23 school year English Language Arts- AI Students
      - Standards Exceeded only 8% of students
      - Standards Met 24% of students
      - Standards Nearly Met 29 % of students
      - Standards Not Met 39 % of students
    - 22-23 school year Math -AI Students
      - Standards Exceeded only 3% of students
      - Standards Met 8% of students
      - Standards Nearly Met 28 % of students
      - Standards Not Met 61 % of students
  - Reminder: These numbers are based on the numbers reported to the state and may not be accurate
  - The biggest challenge for all indicator is Literacy and the District is working on boosting the students literacy
  - The biggest problem to not achieving or meeting the standards is absenteeism. (10% or more of school absences is considered chronic absenteeism)
  - Compare to the state our number is very high 64.9 for American Indian Students only.
  - The challenge is getting the kids to school
    - Astomated phone calls are made when a student is absent
    - Attendance Clerk makes phone calls
    - Contracts on absences of 3 or more days may be requested

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- Trend in attendance is to miss Mondays and Fridays
- Graduation Data
  - Data not shown because the number is too low and may be identifiable.
  - Internal report shows 12/13 AI students graduated in 22-23 92.3% very high
- Tribal Input: Look into collaborations to support our system in the areas where reporting is not accurate.
  - Better communication with tribes in the programs that are already in place.
- Summer School is open to all but focuses on the students that need credit recovery and completion
- It has been a big support to those students that participate consistently in the summer school programs and is an indicator of higher achievement
- High School is now in a Block Schedule Format that allows early intervention and provides better bridge programs
- Data is a statewide problem is not solely in ME
- In the works to make Camp Lockett a Satellite Site for Cuyamaca College and support our community in savings with expenses and emotional factors
- Cherie Foraker Supports concurrent enrollment rather than AP Classes and is working with the High School in a new Pilot Program for high school students to graduate not just with a high school diploma but an Associates for Transfer also.
- School Facilities Funding Stakeholder Listening Session** (*moved in the agenda*)
  - All of our facilities are in various stages of disrepair.
  - JJ Bond is near completion. That building was chosen in the JJ Bond because it was fixable
  - A Survey will come out soon for a new bond to continue repairs in our schools around our district.
    - This community is able to provide enough financial support to rebuild the district's already expired buildings.
    - Dr Keeley is reaching out for a Financial Hardship Fund that will help support the rebuilding of our High School.
    - Parent mentioned the need for high school bathrooms to provide privacy for all those students in sports and those younger siblings that attend the high school for events such as sports and need to change.
    - Questions for Maintenance and Facilities came as to what kind of water testing is being done for the wells

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- County Representatives came to visit the High School when it was closed during the fixing of the well pump. They know the state of the building and the need for funding.
- He painted the picture of students going to a college or university sitting in the science lab: how would the students from ME feel in the fully furnished and state of the art equipment, when our schools are in so much disrepair. Considering their feelings, their need and sense of belonging.
- Statement: District can't go much further without more funding. Dr Keeley asked that if any more suggestions or questions came up regarding the bond to please reach out to him. Apologize and thanked everyone and left the meeting
- Title VI Budget**
  - Amy Conforth shared the Title VI Budget overview
    - Fiscal Year 21-22 \$47,432
    - Fiscal Year 22-23 \$50,705
    - Fiscal Year 23-24 \$49,659
- Tribal Leadership Comments and Feedback**
- Community Schools**
  - Cherie Foraker Community School Leader explains the Community School strategy to transform a school into a place where educators, local community members, families and students work together to strengthen conditions for student learning and healthy development.
  - The Maslow before Bloom Piramyd was shared
  - Grant was given to:
    - Campo Elementary
    - Clover Flat Elementary
    - Hillside IS
    - Potrero Elementary
  - In Spite of only 4 schools receiving the grant Cherie Foraker is in early stages of supporting all schools as in the process of requesting a grant for 2 more of our schools.
  - Community Schools is all about partnerships and communications to strengthen and provide for all of our students. Making connections.
    - Current focus of the Community Schools:
      - Comprehensive social-emotional growth system

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- Full time counseling staff on all school sites
- Development of s a community resource center
- Cultivation of community assets and building resource contact directory
- Grant application and oversight to increase monetary resources for student benefit
- Ongoing professional development
- It was shared that 10 tribes applied and received the grant- Great resource to reach out to see what and how they are providing support
- Phil Yoon- Suggest to get to know your community the people
- Early Literacy Programs**
  - Sheri Miller- District Literacy TOSA
    - Statistics show that on 2022 33% of the nations 4th graders performed at or above grade level in reading proficiency only 33%
    - Data shared for AI students in the 22-23 STAR reading Scores at Campo Elementary
    - Sheri spoke about the importance of literacy and how many strands are woven into Skilled Reading
    - In Mountain Empire we are moving to Literacy Improvement
      - Screening all students with DIBELS
      - Diagnostic Tests to Pinpoint Areas of Need
      - Early Literacy TOSAs at all elementary sites now
      - District wide TOSA (Sheri Miller)
      - Providing Tier 2 Interventions (teaching teachers to provide the needed support)
      - Monthly Literacy Improvement Meetings with Principals & TOSAs
      - Intervention During BSP/ASP programs and summer school
      - 3 year Project Aries Grant
      - Strengthen Tier 1 Curriculum, move to structured Literacy
    - TOSAs role- interventions and coaching the teachers at their site.
    - Literacy skills are needed to be able to succeed in all subjects
    - Julie Dome asks for Tribal Tutors to be allowed to sit in classes to see what and how teachers are giving instruction
    - Suggestion to open all access to parents to be able support the students in different subjects
- California Indian Education for All**

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- Staci Block- moved to the next agenda
- Shared information on some events happening this month with the County office
- State is working towards Tribal Consultation and Training.
- New employee to her office and all the tribes she serves.
- UCSD: Early Academic Outreach Program (EAOP)**
  - Beatriz Moreno- Moved to the next agenda
  - Works at UCSD in partnership with Mountain Empire TRIO
  - Campo will launch a EAOP more information to come
  - Working on the establishment of a timeline to make sure students have access to all of the resources available not just through the university but all over the state
- School Facilities Funding Stakeholder Listening Session** (*Moved up in the agenda*)
- Public Comment**
  - Amanda Neves from the Manzanita Tribe offers distribution of fliers in her weekly newsletter
  - Campo will host the next meeting
- Next Meeting: January 11, 2024**
  - Meeting motioned to adjourned by Dave Rios Ann Pierce seconded the motion
  - Meeting adjourn at 3:00pm
  - All in favor