

Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians

SPECIAL JOINT COUNCIL MEETING WITH BAYFIELD SCHOOL BOARD

August 13, 2014

4:30 p.m. at Bayfield School Library

Meeting called to order by Chairperson Rose Soulier at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Rose Soulier, Present

Bryan Bainbridge, Present

Laura J. Gordon, Present

Dennis Soulier, Present

Mike Gurnoe, Present

Steven Boyd, Present

Jeanne Gordon, Present

Marvin Defoe, Present

Quorum

Bayfield School Board members in attendance: Cindy Garrity, Theresa Gordon, Billy Jo Johnson, Deb Knopf and Craig Hoopman.

Also in attendance: Dee Gokee-Rindal, Education Administrator, Carmen Vander Venter, Education Department, Dr. Aslyn, Bayfield Superintendent, Scott Stralka, K-12 Principal, Sandy Raspotnik, Bayfield School Pupil Services Director, Anne Sullivan, Bayfield School Home-School Liaison and Community members.

AGENDA

Dennis Soulier moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Jeanne Gordon. Motion carried.

Pledge of allegiance was recited.

OPENING CEREMONY

Opening prayer and song by John "Aandeg" Schlender. Aandeg was introduced to those in attendance. He is the son of Alana Babineau and Jason Schlender and a student at Waadookodaading Ojibwe Immersion School in Lac Courte Oreilles.

NEXT THREE PRIORITIES DISCUSSION

Members of the Tribal Council expressed their frustrations with the School board in regards to the Board had not producing a quorum in prior meetings. Bryan Bainbridge felt that the School Board did not make this joint meeting a priority. A few School Board members, including Theresa Gordon and Deb Knopf explained that there was no disrespect intended and they had to miss due to personal reasons. A discussion was had on the need to refocus on the goals and purpose of the MOU.

Marvin Defoe stated he wanted to see the School Board take action on issues more regularly during joint meetings. It was explained by Deb Knopf and Billy Jo Johnson that the School Board

cannot officially take action on issues without having it on the agenda. The public needs to be made aware of the decisions and issues being addressed by the School Board.

The Tribal Council and those in attendance received copies of the next three priorities and the School's responses to each.

Marvin Defoe asked if there was a referral system for students who are below grade level. Scott Stralka explained each student is tested regularly using the Star system. If a student is shown to be in need of additional help, the Pupil Services Team is made aware. In addition, each teacher has time allowed in schedules for helping students who need extra help.

Dave Aslyn will forward available data information to Dee Gokee-Rindal. He also stated Anne Sullivan reports this information regularly to JOM committee.

Tutoring

Dave Aslyn explained that currently middle school and high school students have time built into their daily schedules to receive additional help from their teachers. TAP will continue to offer tutoring afterschool and Title VII funds will be used to fund one tutor for this coming school year.

Student Survival

Student survival was described as the need for students to learn skills that enable them to survive once they have graduated high school with a focus on the environment. An overview of school response was given. It was explained that the current school curriculum provides a significant amount of instruction on the environment throughout the grades. Next year the Science curriculum is up for revision and the school is interested in working with the Tribe on this.

Marvin Defoe stated he had made a suggestion to the school during the prior school year for field trip to the Penokee Hills. He believed it would be a great way for students to learn about the effects of mining. He was told by school staff that this would not be allowed due to it being a safety concern. The District did have concerns taking into account on the recent protests.

Bayfield School position Vacancies discussion

The School Board was asked if there were current position vacancies. Dave Aslyn stated there were two teacher positions open. Marvin Defoe asked Carmen Vander Venter if the education department uses a database or system to track Tribal members with certain degrees or who are pursuing degrees and if so, are they being contacted when positions are open at the school. Carmen stated she only tracks those who apply for scholarships and she had contacted students in past when a position was open. Dee Gokee-Rindal mentioned that Forest County Potawatomi has a database that they are willing to share with Red Cliff. If used, specific Tribal members with degrees may be made aware of job openings.

Craig Hoopman spoke of "planting seeds" in kids early and getting them prepared for higher education. He explained that his belief was that parents need to stress importance of getting an education. He suggested having a Job Fair and College Fair for students and parents. A suggestion was made to hold a workshop for parents to guide them through the college application process. Carmen Vander Venter stated she held an event this year for this specific purpose and there was minimal participation. Jeanne Gordon suggested she be more creative or offer incentives.

The School Board asked the Council for assistance is getting the word out on school sponsored events by using the Legendary Waters sign to advertise. Rose Soulier stated Legendary Waters does not allow this but the new Health Center may be an option. The Council will follow up on this.

Bayfield School District Strategic Plan

The plan was developed from three community forums held by the school. At the September 29th annual School Board meeting an update for the community will be given.

Marvin Defoe was concerned that the Tribal priorities are not mentioned in the Strategic plan. It was explained by the School Board and Dave Aslyn that all the priorities fall into the strategic plan but are not mentioned verbatim. Bayfield, Red Cliff and LaPointe communities are considered when the plan was developed and is focused on shared concerns and needs. Marvin Defoe reiterated that Red Cliff children are different with different needs.

Rose Soulier asked if the smudging room was still available to students. Dave Aslyn stated it is not being utilized by students but continues to be available. It was also explained that Native Education classes continue to be available but are underutilized. Mr. Kriner is working with Krystle Topping in incorporating Tribal history and government lessons for his classes.

It was announced by Dave Aslyn that the Charter school planning grant application was not funded. Rose Soulier asked how the school will relay this information to the community. Aslyn stated the school plans to update the community in the next school newsletter. A short discussion was had on the charter school plan.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday March 10, 2015 at Legendary Waters Resort and Casino beginning at 5:00 p.m.

OTHER

ADJOURN

Marvin Defoe moved to adjourn. Seconded by Laura J. Gordon. Motion carried.

Adjourned: 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Alana Babineau
Recording Secretary

ATTEST:



Laura J. Gordon, Secretary
Red Cliff Tribal Council