

Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

August 12, 2015

5:00 p.m. at Bayfield School Library

Meeting called to order by Chairperson Bryan Bainbridge at 5:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Bryan Bainbridge, Present
Nathan Gordon, Present
Laura J. Gordon, Present
Krystle Topping, Present
Quorum

Marvin Defoe, Absent (Out of town)
Jeanne Gordon, Present
Steven Boyd, Present
Chris Boyd, Present
Daniel Duffy, Present

Also in attendance: School Board, Dee Gokee-Rindal, Education Administrator, Sandy Raspotnik, Elementary School Principal, Dr. Aslyn, Bayfield Superintendent, Anne Sullivan, Bayfield School Liaison and community members.

AGENDA

Steven Boyd moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Jeanne Gordon. Motion carried.

OPENING CEREMONY

Opening ceremony performed by Dee Gokee-Rindal.

PRIORITIES DISCUSSION

Bryan Bainbridge expressed the Council's continued frustrations with the School board in regards to the School Board not producing quorum and mentioned that we shouldn't be just going thru the motions. Larry Deragon, School Board member agreed.

Council discussed their concerns with regards to Sandy Raspotnik's new role as Principal and pulling double duty with Principal position and continued Pupil Services Director. Sandy explained that she doesn't see the students directly and that they have more of an inclusive type of program. They have Special Education teachers, therapists and classroom aides to work with the students directly. With this inclusive type of services will allow the students to get more instruction in the classroom? Dr. Aslyn added that the K-12 Principal position wasn't successful.

Chris Boyd raised his concerns with the approach for helping the student's and fears kids will fall through the cracks. Bryan Bainbridge's additional concern is that there won't be enough time to actually help the kids. Out of 400 students 25% of them are in Special Education.

The question was raised how can a student entering 7th grade have B's and C's on the report card and can barely read at a 1st grade level; how can this be happening? Laura J. Gordon asked why the student isn't being held back. Sandy Raspotnik's response was that it shows a negative effect and they see more students dropping out of school; self-esteem issues.

What can Tribal Council do to help bridge the gap? Bryan Bainbridge discussed getting kids to school. Chris Boyd mentioned that 4-5 years ago there was a truancy officer and that we need to access other avenues to get the kids to school and to work collaboratively to see funding for this type of position. Krystle Topping mentioned that a grant already written and should be re-visited. Bryan Bainbridge said we need to identify the small group of truant students and identify the problem.

Cindy Garrity, School Board member asked about have more MOU meetings in the future. Bryan Bainbridge said yes, we need to have more than 2 meetings a year. It was suggested to start meeting quarterly. Dr. Aslyn said that we can't move forward on this until the education board discusses and adds it in as an agenda item.

FAMILY NIGHTS

Sandy Raspotnik mentioned that they intend on continuing with Family nights throughout the school year to help get information out to the families and providing a meal. Dance Party, Mid-Winter Carnival and Pizza parties are just a few ideas. Krystle Topping suggested that the Teachers should do a short bio on themselves, this will allow the parents and students can know more about their teachers. Both Sandy Raspotnik and Dr. Aslyn like this idea.

Bryan Bainbridge said that we need to focus on college readiness and get information to students and families sooner to get help with applications and costs; we can do better here.

Dee Gokee-Rindal mentioned that CEP has some post high school for 18-24 year olds to get assistance with job seeking, skills, resume writing, interviewing and life skills. More funding is available.

Tribal Council would like to see staff development training for "Poverty Sensitivity"; poverty awareness training.

JR TRIBAL COUNCIL

Need to target students 15 to 19 years old. Bryan Bainbridge mentioned that the biggest problem is gaining interest from the youth; and we will not give up. The youth today don't know what it's about to be on the Jr Tribal Council because we haven't had this in so many years. There was discussion on setting up elections in the near future and that perhaps we hold Tribal Council meetings at the Youth Center to see if we can get some interest that way. Nathan Gordon said we are working on doing more teachings at the Youth Center. Bryan Bainbridge suggested a Youth Summit. Krystle Topping mentioned strengthens Act 31 to help build their knowledge base.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING


Will hold off on setting next meeting until School Board meets next to discuss the quarterly meetings rather than twice a year. School Board meets in September 2015.

ADJOURN

Steven Boyd moved to adjourn. Seconded by Laura J. Gordon. Motion carried.

Adjourned 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:


Susie Gurnoe
Recording Secretary

ATTEST:


Laura J. Gordon, Secretary
Red Cliff Tribal Council