

**Meeting Minutes – Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission (INAIAC)
Education Subcommittee**

Tuesday, August 11, 2015
3:30pm EDT

The Education Subcommittee meeting was called to order at 3:33pm.

Commissioners Present: Erin Oliver, Shannon Turner, Tracy Locke

Commissioners Not Present: Sen. Randy Head, Pete Magnant, Sarah Ancel

Staff Present: Kerry Steiner

The minutes of the July 15, 2015 Education Subcommittee Meeting could not be approved due to a lack of quorum.

Agenda Item: School Curriculum

Shannon Turner reported she is about halfway through collecting websites from the Bureau of Indian Affairs list that will be used in creating the interactive map representing tribal languages.

Agenda Item: Resources for Teachers

Shannon Turner stated these resources will tie into the language videos and that INAIAC will add a cultural education video to its website. Tracy Locke added that the Civil Rights Subcommittee has talked about making DVDs for use by the Native Circles within the Indiana Department of Correction. Kerry Steiner added that some of these videos could be used in both places, for example, if a DVD was created about the Plains Indians or Woodland Indians it could be used in the schools and in the IDOC.

Agenda Item: Biliteracy Bill

Kerry Steiner attended the Indiana State Board of Education meeting regarding the Biliteracy Seal of Indiana and INAIAC's assistance with crafting the bill with respect to Indigenous languages. She said the SBOE will likely want to mirror what New Mexico is doing since some Native languages do not appear in written form.

Agenda Item: Scholarships

Kerry Steiner indicated she would prefer not to invest a large amount of the license plate money for purposes of creating self-sustaining scholarships at this time. A member of the public reiterated that it would probably be best to spread out the money and help a lot of people now rather than have to wait for those scholarships to be available. Erin Oliver supported that by saying at some point we would probably want the scholarships to live beyond the Commission. A member of the public added if INAIAC ceases to exist then the money would also. Kerry Steiner stated the money is in a public trust fund. Erin Oliver suggested INAIAC invest money into an endowment so it exists beyond INAIAC and Tracy Locke agreed.

A member of the public stated if a student were to receive a \$500 scholarship that would be \$500 they didn't have before. Erin Oliver said maybe we should invest \$150,000 to generate \$10,000 in scholarship money, then asked if we're allowed to pull out that much money and if so, how do we do it? Kerry Steiner stated she would look into this and provide an answer at the next meeting. A member of

the public asked who would oversee the scholarship and Kerry Steiner stated the Commission on Higher Education (CHE) could do it but they would have to reconfigure their database, and she added that we should look at the 'here and now' for scholarships. Tracy Locke asked if INAIAC could oversee it now and then pass it onto CHE in the future if necessary. Erin Oliver suggested we set up the endowment this year so it's ready by school year 2016-2017 and it was noted that INAIAC could always add money to it later.

Kerry Steiner asked if the Subcommittee was ready to discuss scholarship amounts and referred to her thoughts about creating four \$2,500 academic year scholarships and five \$1,000 summer school scholarships. She asked about whether we wanted to create stipends for interns and Shannon Turner asked if that was going to be moved to the Employment Subcommittee. Erin Oliver stated the employment bonus discussed at the last meeting was going to be moved to the Employment Subcommittee and the interns were going to be connected with CHE as part of their match program (they pay half, INAIAC pays half). Shannon Turner suggested we discuss the interns when we have the Education and Employment Subcommittees joint meeting. Kerry Steiner asked if the Education Subcommittee was okay with recommending we put \$15,000 toward scholarships; Shannon Turner and Tracy Locke agreed with this although a formal vote could not be made since we did not have a quorum.

Shannon Turner suggested that since the scholarships probably won't be in place until January 2016 that we give eight people \$1,250 since it will only be for one semester then next year we give the four \$2,500 scholarships. A member of the public stated it will take time for word to spread that the scholarships are available. Erin Oliver asked what the criteria would be and Kerry Steiner responded that the students would be Indiana residents who were enrolled in federally recognized tribes and attending Indiana colleges and universities. Erin Oliver mentioned that there are almost 6,000 Miami of Indiana and a member of the public added that the language in the original statute stated "historic tribes of Indiana" rather than federally recognized tribes so it was agreed that students from historic Indiana tribes would qualify. Shannon Turner suggested we find out what the criteria is for the Native American scholarship provided by IUPUI and what the criteria is for CHE and compare the two. A member of the public added that historic Indiana tribes would also include the Wea and Shawnee.

Kerry Steiner then introduced Beth Ernsberger from IN*Source who made a presentation about services available to parents of children with special education needs and how IN*Source would like to work with INAIAC to make these free services available to Native American families. Beth agreed to send some brochures to Kerry Steiner and Kerry Steiner will provide Beth with a list of upcoming gatherings.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45pm.