



Title VI Native American Family Committee Meeting
6-7 p.m., April 22, 2025, DO – Rm 102

Voting Members in Attendance: Yana Mansfield, Michelle DeAsis and Holdin, Sharece Steinkamp, CC Compton, Sharon McGuire, Trina Evans, Sybil McLean, Michaela Vendiola, Candice Woodfork

Co-chairs: Dr. Kristen French, Isabel Meaker, Dr. Janis Velasquez Farmer

Welcome

Dr. Kristen French opened the meeting with a welcome and review of the agenda. Printed copies of the Title VI grant application and budget were provided to attendees.

- Kristen reviewed the Title VI work completed to date in preparing the application for submission.
- Clarification provided: federally defined terminology (e.g., American Indian/Alaska Native) must be used in the application, but preferred identifiers will be used in grant activities.

Presentation on the Application Draft

Presenter: Amelia Vader, Grant Writer & Special Projects Manager, Bellingham Schools
Amelia provided an overview of the draft application, including:

- Objectives and activities
- Program description
- Budget
- Attestation on the required “Indian Parent Committee Information” form

Questions and Clarifications

Committee members asked questions and received clarifications on several key topics:

Collaboration

- *Q: Can we engage in meaningful collaboration with the Lummi and Nooksack Education Departments?*

- Yes. If tribes designate their education departments, the district will collaborate accordingly.
- *Q: Does collaboration extend to other tribes (e.g., Tlingit, Haida)?*
 - Collaboration is local per the grant, but activities are open to all Native American and Alaska Native students and families in the district.

Budget

- *Q: How was the budget determined?*
 - Allocation was distributed among Title VI categories to meet objectives: increasing cultural identity/awareness and increasing parent participation. Activities include cultural enrichment, student advocacy, and parent involvement. Funds also support coordination, management of 506 forms, scheduling, and administrative tasks.
- *Q: Could conference travel funds be better used?*
 - Committee recommended shifting the conference travel line item to Native Contractors and exploring local cross-community learning instead of out-of-town conferences. Amelia recorded this adjustment.

Tribal Liaison

- *Q: Could we hire a tribal liaison?*
 - Response (Isabel, Janis, Amelia): Current funding would only support a very part-time role; district budget constraints prevent creating this position at this time. Increasing 506 submissions could increase allocations.

Additional Funding

- *Q: Can we apply for Johnson O'Malley funds?*
 - Possibly in the future.

Comments and Reflections

- Committee members expressed appreciation for the progress in developing the application and for the collaborative approach.
- Emphasis placed on ensuring grant funds are used to support cultural enrichment, student advocacy, and parent involvement.

Vote for Title VI Grant

- Kristen asked if the committee was ready to vote on the application with the recommended budget adjustment.
- Vote Result: All voting members unanimously approved the application.
- Committee designated student member CC Compton to sign the attestation form on behalf of the committee.
- CC signed the “Indian Parent Committee Information” form, officially documenting committee review and approval of the 2025 Title VI grant application.
- CC received applause and gratitude for her leadership and participation throughout the process.

Next Steps and Closing

- Attendees were invited to the final NAFC meeting of the year on Tuesday, May 13, 2025 (6:00–7:00 PM).
- Attendees also invited to the John (lulilaš) McCoy Since Time Immemorial Curriculum Community Night on Tuesday, May 20, 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.