



Title VI Native American Family Committee Meeting  
6-7 p.m., March 18, 2025, DO Rm. 102

**Voting Members in Attendance:** Yana Mansfield, Michelle DeAsis, Holdin Bernard, 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 & Introductions**

- Kristen opened the meeting with gratitude to families and committee members for their attendance.
- She emphasized the importance of community and collaboration, noting that these meetings allow members to weave together collective wisdom and experiences to support Native students now and into the future.
- Members were encouraged to regularly visit the Title VI Native American Family Committee webpage for updates, data points, and information about the application process.

**II. Updates and Calendar**

**a. Celebrations: Native Family Social**

- Members reflected on recent family and community gatherings, celebrating the growing sense of connection and participation.

**b. 506 Forms and Raffle**

- Updates shared on 506 form submissions, with a raffle held to encourage continued completion.
- Reminder: the number of submitted forms directly impacts Title VI funding eligibility.

**III. Announcement of Public Hearing**

- Upcoming events were announced:

- **April 1, 2025:** Public hearing at the Bellingham Public Schools district office. Event will include presentation of the Title VI application, Q&A, and testimony opportunities.
- **April 22, 2025:** Committee voting meeting to approve or decline the final Title VI Indian Education Formula Grant application (hybrid: in person or virtual).
- Members were encouraged to participate and share testimony.

#### **IV. Reviewing Needs Assessment Survey**

- Survey results were shared, highlighting key themes identified by families:
  - Increasing cultural knowledge and identity
  - Building family and community participation
  - Supporting student advocacy and leadership
  - Strengthening parent involvement in district activities
- These priorities will inform the district's Title VI application goals.

#### **V. NAFC: Themes and Priorities**

##### **a. What are we aiming to do? And how do we want to do it?**

- Discussion centered on the district's role in responding to family input with culturally grounded activities, enrichment, and leadership opportunities.

##### **b. Graffiti Wall**

- Introduction of the online NAFC Graffiti Wall, a platform for community participation and feedback.
- Members invited to contribute by March 21, 2025. Sections include:
  - **Purple:** Stories of other successful programs and ideas
  - **Blue:** Data and agenda materials from the meeting
  - **White:** Summary of needs from the survey (with three hearts for voting)
  - **Yellow:** Eligible federal goals (with two hearts for voting)
  - **Green:** Activities aligned to needs and goals (with two hearts for voting)
  - **Add Your Voice:** Comment feature for written input

## **VI. Celebration, Gratitude and Next Steps**

- Kristen and committee leaders expressed gratitude for continued collaboration and community engagement.
- Next steps:
  - Members cast votes and share feedback on the graffiti wall by March 21.
  - Prepare for April public hearings and final Title VI vote.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.
- Next meetings scheduled: April 22, 2025, and May 13, 2025.