Native Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

ASD Education Center
5530 Northern Lights Blvd., Blue Room

Wednesday, September 17, 2025
5:00-7:30 PM

I. Committee Group Photos and Headshots

II. **Welcome and Introductions**
Tasarla called the meeting to order at 5:40pm
Patrick read the Land Acknowledgment.

III. **Call to Order**
A. Roll Call

Present	Absent	Staff	Guest
Patricia Henry		Cheryl Sherman	Yani Morley- SCF
Paul Duny		Jaime Galvan	Gabrielle K
Vladimir K-H		Emily Baker	Landon H
Isabell Jax Murry		Melonie-Anne Kastens	
Sammie Hernandez		Alexis Griffee	
Jennifer M-C		Serena Coons	
Teresa Lowe			
Patrick Hopstad			
Tasarla Shaw			

A quorum was met.

B. Approval of Agenda
Teresa moved to approve the agenda, Patrick seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried

IV. Vote for Teacher/Counselor
No teacher/counselor present
a. Seat 1
b. Seat 2

V. Reviewal of By-Laws

Trish made a motion table the discussion until the November meeting, Teresa seconded. Patrick wanted to know what obligation this would hold. Discussion was held to have at least two sub committee meetings to go over by-laws.
All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

VI. Planning for Communications Help

a. Supervisor
   Emily gave an update on site visits with the Student Support Specialist. Her biggest takeaway has been the SSSs love their jobs and are valuable asset to their schools. Attended AK Strong Cohort. Collaborating with Alexis on PLC, PD for SSS staff. Working to push more program recruitment from the Ed Center.
   Jaime presented to the School Board on 9/16 about our program and the work of our Student Support Specialists. Met with Mr.Walker and two students on the upcoming NIEA travel. Working on a presentation.

b. Financial Report
   Melonie-Anne gave an update that I.E. has so far spent $171,493.31. With the smaller budget three object codes no longer have any funds. The budget transfer approval will need to be redone as student travel is paid out of a different budget. Patrick asked with the tight budget, how many student support specialists are we able to pay for. Jaime let the room know we have 24 SSSs.

c. Teacher Expert
   Alexis gave an update on the PLC with the SSS Team. Graduation support with Culturally Sustaining Credit Opportunities. Tasarla asked about SSSs collaboration with school counselors to see where students are with their graduation credits. Alexis let the room know that SSS's do work directly with counselors and our department is working to further our collaboration with the Counseling team. Our department is working to better support our SSS Team with the changes made.
   Collaboration for Culturally Responsive Training with Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center

d. Cultural Enrichment Specialist
   Cheryl shared the newest video created by the Communication Department for the Salmons Streams and Strength themed Summer Enrichment Program.
   Upcoming events beading open lab, orange shirt day, Indigenous Peoples' Day collaboration being held at ANCCS. Partnership with AFN for Elders and Youth. October 17th having the Alaska Blanket Exercise with ASD Senior Leadership. Cheryl elaborated what the Alaska Blanket Exercise is

e. Gui Kima
   Jaime covered Cyndi's updates. The High School Summer Intensives was a success at APU. 8 week Cultural Identity project started September 16th and goes to November 11th. It is open to all ASD High School students and takes place at East High School.

f. Alaska Strong
Diana's medicinal plant cohort finished. Three couples completed the cohort getting to make stinkweed salve, calendula lip balm, and three different jams. The current cohort began September 9th and is themed Vestpuk. Enrollment for the October Jewelry Making Cohort has started.
Ralph's current cohort is Native Dance and fishing with Cyndi Reeves, Gui Kima Coordinator, and Tim Christopherson, East High Teacher. Ralph is working with Abel, East High's SSS, to provide families with important resources. The next cohort will be attending E&Y and making moccasins. Ralph will be holding the second Frybread Night Sep 24th at East High

VII. Public Comments

Jaime wanted to make meetings more meaningful to have actional items coming from the NAC.
Teresa suggested changing the wording to help non members feel more comfortable in speaking.
Serena talked about her Sip and Share event at Chinook Elementary on Tuesday, September 23rd. She will be working with the counselor in the morning before school to talk to parents about the program. Working with parents on how she and the counselor can better support students. This will be her third Sip and Share event. She had 4-5 families show up at the first two.
Sandra Roys received a grant to open her Parent Café which is similar to Sip and Share.
Trish asked for an update on the NAC logo. Jaime let them know it would be added to the November meeting agenda.
Teresa asked how often the NAC dates get shared. Maybe adding a "can't make the meeting? We still want to hear from you!"
Serena asked the student members what would help them more coming from the Student Support Specialist. Isabell said she wished they had the Freshman program.
Yani talked about the SCF grant. She wanted to know how SCF can better support Students and Families. Think about what students need within their school. Add next meeting topics to the agenda moving forward.

VIII. Adjournment

Tasarla called the meeting to an end. Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm