

MEETING MINUTES
JOHNSON-O'MALLEY INDIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
September 24, 2025 @ 5:30 PM (MST)
Page USD #8 Hogan, Page, AZ

01. CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order @ 5:44 PM by Evonne Yazzie

A. ROLL CALL:

- Evonne Yazzie (President/LeChee Chapter Rep.)- in attendance
- Lisa Harris (Vice-President/Kaibeto Chapter Rep.)- in attendance
- April Endishee (Secretary/ Coppermine Chapter Rep.)- in attendance
- Beatrice John (Member/ Bodaway-Gap Chapter Rep.)- in attendance

B. MOMENT OF SILENCE: Observed

C. APPROVAL OF June 18, 2025, Regular IEC Meeting Minutes.

Motion to approve by: Lisa Harris

Second by: Beatrice John

Vote: 3 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstained

Motion carried.

D. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve by: Beatrice John

Second by: Lisa Harris

Vote: 3 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstained

Motion Carried.

02. PUBLIC COMMENTS (3-MINUTES):

- **Desiree Fowler, Page Unity Booster Club**
 - Article 2 was addressed, which outlines the purpose of the Indian Education Committee (IEC). The IEC is responsible for carrying out functions related to the planning, designing, implementation, and evaluation of the Indian Education Program serving students enrolled in Page Unified School District (PUSD) #8. These responsibilities include—but are not limited to—the lawful functions and procedural roles outlined in the Johnson O'Malley (JOM) Indian Education policy.
 - In addition, the committee is tasked with ensuring more efficient and effective program operations, while also acknowledging the unique legal requirements associated with each program. Although the IEC is composed of selected members, it does not restrict or discourage ongoing participation from nonmembers within surrounding communities, especially in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the Indian Education Program.
 - Gratitude was also expressed to the Indian Education Program for sponsoring five PUSD students who attended the annual UNITY Conference in San Diego over the summer. This group included three middle school students and two high school students. The event hosted over 4,000 Native American participants, showcasing a wide range of cultures, languages, and tribal representation. The students took part in the Cultural Night talent show and returned home inspired and eager to share the knowledge and experiences they gained with their peers in the school district.
 - Furthermore, it was noted that two high school students independently funded their participation in a trip to Washington, D.C., where they visited Congressman Eli Crane's office and attended sessions of the NAFIS (National Association of Federally Impacted Schools) Conference. This effort demonstrated strong student representation from the Page High School UNITY Club.

- The UNITY Club includes both junior high and high school students. Currently, a booster club is active and supporting these efforts, especially considering past IEC decisions not to serve as primary sponsors for student participation.
- **Irene Whitekiller, LeChee Community Member**
 - A community member recently raised concerns about the lack of communication and coordination regarding the recent parent-teacher conferences. Typically, updates are shared through Evonne; however, no chapter meeting was held beforehand to inform the community of any updates, and her next scheduled meeting wasn't until the following Monday—near the end of the month. The need for greater collaboration was emphasized, involving the superintendent, JOM representatives, school supervisors, parents, community leaders, and chapter officials to enhance outreach and encourage more active parental involvement in students' education. Appreciation was expressed for everyone's efforts and reaffirmed the importance of raising awareness and strengthening community engagement.

03.REPORTS:

A. Indian Education Committee Members

- **Evonne Yazzie, President/ LeChee Chapter Representative**
 - Did not attend the meetings at LeChee and did not have a report for the Chapter, as there had been no IEC meeting since June. Continued to share flyers from the school district.
 - Attended the parent-teacher conference on Thursday of last week. Attendance appeared low, possibly due to a football game scheduled at the same time. Some teachers took a long time with individual students, which led to long wait times. The conference ended at 7:00 p.m., and some teachers were in different buildings, requiring additional time to reach each one.
 - We are nearing the halfway point of the school year. Grades will be posted in December. Surveys, which are usually conducted in December, are planned for the spring. Picked up surveys from Lorraine and intended to attend the Monday meeting to ask community members to complete them.
 - October 18 was noted as Diné Bizaad Teachers Day, established by a resolution from the previous year by Mr. Buu Nygren.
 - The regular Chapter meeting was scheduled for Monday. Scholarships were listed on the agenda. Canyon Tours was included as a donor, contributing \$20,000 toward scholarships.
 - Some parents raised concerns about dual enrollment. One parent enrolled a student in an ASU course without knowing there was a \$250 fee. The parent, a single mother of three, inquired if the IEC could assist. The course was not required for graduation, and while there was discussion of a potential IEC cap, the parent ultimately resolved the issue independently. Son was enrolled in a Navajo Government class, and the fee was covered by NTU.
- **Lisa Harris, Vice-President/ Kaibeto Chapter Representative**
 - Tincer Harris transferred his position to Lisa Harris and became the vice president. He was designated as an alternate for the Kaibeto Chapter Representative. A resolution from the chapter house regarding these changes was submitted to Lorraine.
 - A Sunday chapter meeting was held, primarily addressing the budget, which was not approved until the following Tuesday. A proposal was discussed about creating a Navajo Nation-operated dormitory in Page to support students with transportation and home challenges.
 - Parent-teacher conference hours were limited. When held in the gym, the setup allowed for more efficient movement between teachers. An increase in conference duration to at least four hours was suggested, due to lengthy discussions with teachers. The current two-hour timeframe required some parents to attend multiple sessions, which was challenging for those traveling long distances. Morning sessions were also noted as impractical for some families.
 - Surveys were mentioned. Some parents were hesitant to complete them due to a lack of feedback from the previous year. Although many surveys were submitted from Kaibeto, there was no follow-up report or summary of the collected data. Interests were expressed in

receiving combined feedback from both last year's and this year's surveys to better inform the community and demonstrate that the responses were reviewed.

- **April Endischiee, Secretary/ Coppermine Chapter Representative**

- Did not attend the July and August Chapter meetings but attended the September Chapter Planning meeting where Carlos gave an overview of JOM, Title VI, and the Policies and Procedures. Additional surveys were collected. Also, before school started, assisted Carlos with parent interactions and distributing surveys at the Coppermine student registration.
- Due to the first-come, first-served format and limited time, it was not possible to meet all the sixth-grade teachers, despite assistance with waiting in line. Morning PTC times were not feasible; evening times were more accessible. Conferences held in the gym in the past made it easier to visit multiple teachers. Books were purchased during Parent-Teacher Conferences.
- Elementary students had an opportunity to participate in cross country, but the program was delayed due to the absence of a coach. As a result, not all students were able to participate when originally scheduled.
- In May, concerns were raised regarding buses lacking air conditioning, and students were transported home in high temperatures. Thanked the district, the community received new buses, resolving this issue.
- At Lakeview, the gate had recently remained closed at all times. This was not the case in previous years. The basketball courts had been used regularly, and the change in access prompted questions about the reason for the closure.
- During Parent-Teacher Conferences, one teacher reported being unable to offer after-school support for students needing additional help. Similar limitations were reported in the previous school year. Support was offered only before school or during lunch, not after school. The reason for the restriction was not provided.

- **Beatrice John, Member/ Badoway-Gap Chapter Representative**

- Been a while since IEC last meeting. Over the summer, attended the July or August meeting but did not share anything at that time, except for a survey that was being conducted. Noticed there was an emergency meeting earlier this month, which did not attend due to work. Regarding the teachers' conference, personal experience was similar to others, possibly with a longer time frame. One parent mentioned it occurred on a Saturday, but based on my research, there was no Saturday conference. She had left work early for it. Going forward, it was important to distribute surveys and flyers as soon as they became available.

B. Carlos Begay, Coordinator of Indian Education

- Flyers detailing program updates and upcoming events below are available in the Indian Education Office.
- **Program Updates:**
 - June 24-25, 2025, Navajo Nation Johnson O' Malley Regional Meeting held in Flagstaff, AZ at the High-Country Conference Center. Annual review from the Navajo Nation.
 - June 26-July 1, 2025, National Unity Conference located in San Diego, CA. Page Unified School District (USD) Navajo Language/ UNITY Club (NLUC) members, 2 being high school students and 3 being middle school students attended (itinerary provided). Information was brought back and applying into our programs this year.
 - July 2025-June 2026, American Indian Education Program (AIEP), Johnson O'Malley (JOM), and Title VI scheduled meeting dates, location Page High School (PHS) Hogan at 5:30pm.
 - July 2025, Page USD JOM Community Needs Assessment Survey Form and QR Code disseminated to the community. Surveys are gone through thoroughly and categorized and is used with the Navajo Nation. In sharing with the community, can possibly put that back in their hands. Last year is done, but maybe not this year, still being compiled.
 - July 22-28, 2025, Back to School Event, took place at Kaibeto, LeChee, and Coppermine Chapter Houses registering, dissemination of information, need assessment survey and providing entertainment.

- August 6-27, 2025, 8th grade Cultural/ Traditional Orientation held at the PHS Hogan. Good to see a lot of good questions and feedback.
- September 2-4, 2025, Annual ADE OIE Summit Located in Phoenix Wildhorse Conference Center. A lot of good ideas, and these should be incorporated into the programs, and many are seen and provided to our community.
- September 8-9, 2025, 7th grade Cultural/ Traditional Orientation held at the PHS Hogan. Focus was on cultural language Loss.
- September 13-17, 2025, Fall NAFIS Conference, located at Washington, DC. Managed to reach out to American Indian Indigenous programs across the nation. Visited the Archives, to see the actual document Treaty of 1868.
- September 21, 2025, Coppermine Chapter invitation/ visit for presentation for AIEP, JOM, and Title VI. A 3-hour presentation summed into 40 minutes. Community wanted more information. Good feedback from the community.
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - September 25, 2025, Kinaalda baa hane' Culture night sponsored by AIEP and inspired by middle school NLUC, located at the PHS Hogan at 5:30 pm, open to the public. Depending on the outcome and demand, will consider Men's right of passage.
 - September 30, 2025, Dine' Philosophy and PHS Staff Professional Development at the PHS Hogan from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM. Will be covering the posters that are seen on campus, their purpose and to understand what they see.
 - September 30, 2025, JOM Annual Report due to Navajo Nation JOM Office.
 - October 30, 2025, Annual report currently in progress.
 - Indian Policy and Procedures disseminated to the IEC committee for self-review for future feedback.
- Other discussions:
 - Women's Leadership that was shared on social media was postponed until further notice with no future date set, due to limited funding.
 - October 29th (Pre-k through 6th grade PUSD Pageant) and October 30th, 2025 (7th through 12th grade PUSD Pageant). Flyer disseminated by volunteer parent.
 - With limited funding, events are still taking place at no expense, as the Indian Education Coordinator conducts them.

C. Dr. Bryce Anderson, Superintendent

- The district was nearing completion of a fiber internet connection from the server room to Navajo Mountain. The project, ongoing for approximately three years, included collaboration with NTUA. Existing radio equipment remained in use on Frontier's tower with permission.
- The preschool was in the process of relocating from a 6-room configuration to 8 rooms at the Early Childhood Learning Center (ECLC). Some casework was delayed due to backorders. Weekly walkthroughs were conducted to monitor progress. New carpet installation was planned before student occupancy.
- All bus routes were operational. Air-conditioned buses were assigned to all routes. Leadership in the transportation department implemented this change. Improved student attendance was observed following this change.
- An incentivized lunch program had been implemented. Approximately 50% of students in grades 10–12 qualified for open campus privileges based on academic performance, attendance, and tardiness. As a result of this program, there was a noted decrease in non-school-related activity in the nearby park during lunch periods.
- Discipline data was reviewed quarterly to identify patterns. A major focus was improving attendance at Page High School (grades 7–12) to address dropout rates, which were closely linked to unverified absences and truancy. Daily calls were made to parents of absent students. Plans were in place to begin home visits and to monitor both full-day and single-period unverified absences.

- A classroom (science room) at the high school was damaged when a vehicle collided with the building. Bollards that had been installed previously were found to be ineffective, as they were only embedded 2 to 2.5 feet into the ground due to bedrock. New bollards, approximately 7 feet deep and reinforced with rebar, were being installed. The number of bollards was increased from 3 to 11. A fish tank in the classroom was destroyed in the incident.
- Asphalt was installed at the ECLC overflow parking lot. Changes to traffic flow were made in coordination with the City of Page. New fencing was being added to separate the lot from the playground. The lot is intended for event and gym parking.
- Approximately 200 families attended high school Parent Teacher Conference's (PTC). A task force was to be formed to evaluate and potentially redesign how PTCs are conducted districtwide. Discussion to occur at the district leadership level.
- It was reported that the Page Elementary School playground had been locked. This decision was not made at the district level. A follow-up will take place to determine the reason, as the playground has typically been used by the community during non-school hours.
- It was proposed that the previous year's survey results be presented at the October IEC meeting, with the current year's results presented in April. The timing aligned with the IEC's planning cycle for the Johnson O'Malley educational plan. Carlos was to receive and share these results with the committee.
- The U.S. Department of Education had temporarily frozen some Title funds related to after-school programming. Those funds had since been released. Participation in after-school programs required board approval due to payroll processes. Funding for these programs had decreased following the end of COVID-related federal support. Follow-up was planned regarding after-school programming for sixth grade, with results to be reported to Carlos.
- Other discussions:
 - Two Sand Devil replacement buses were scheduled for delivery in January. Funding was reallocated from other fleet replacements due to the unreliability of the current Sand Devil buses. A breakdown occurred on N20 during a back-to-school event to Coppermine. New buses were expected to be operational for student use after January.
 - Electric buses were acquired through a grant process. Buses will serve the LeChee and in-town routes. Incentives due at end of the month, the cost of one bus reduced to \$120,000, and two buses to \$90,000 each, compared to the standard cost of \$220,000–\$230,000 for a gas-powered bus.
 - Cross country had 6th, 7th, and 8th grade participation. The team initially had ~100 students. Due to the loss of a coach, ~50–60 students were cut for safety and supervision reasons. One part-time coach was unavailable full-time. Other staff stepped in to assist. Staffing was equivalent to about 2.5 coaches.
 - Some elementary students joined the junior high team, leading to concerns about older students losing spots. Parents and potential volunteers were not informed early enough to offer support or complete background checks. Bryce will follow up with the schools.

04. NEW BUSINESS:

A. JOM Budget Update, Carlos Begay, Coordinator Ind. Ed., ~Update

- **SY 2023–2024 Budget Contract 234**
 - Modification 02 dated 03/11/2025, extending the contract through 12/31/2025.
 - A new budget transfer was in progress as of 09/24/2025.
 - Reimbursement dated 08/30/2025 reflected a balance of \$4,809.62.
 - As of 09/24/2025, the available balance was \$3,309.62.
 - Potential planned expenditures included student activities, consultation fees and expenses, and parental costs.
- **SY 2024–2025 Budget Contract 230**
 - A budget transfer dated 06/23/2025 remained in progress and was not yet approved.

- JOM Programmatic Monitoring conducted on 08/13/2025 resulted in no findings, recommendations, or corrective action plans.
- Modification 01 dated 08/25/2025 extending the contract through 12/31/2025.
- Reimbursement dated 08/30/2025 reflected a balance of \$6,180.43.
- As of 09/24/2025, the available balance was \$4,504.43.
- Potential planned expenditures included ASU dual enrollment and student tuition assistance in the amount of \$4,000.
- **SY 2025–2026 Budget Contract TBD**
 - On 05/05/2025, an allocation of \$15,066.07 was approved, following a budget cut of 91%. As of that date, no contract number had been issued.
 - On 08/15/2025, the NN Risk Management Program completed its review under the NN Insured-164 Process; final approval remained pending.
 - On 09/17/2025, President Buu Nygren signed a comprehensive budget in the amount of \$2,000,000. A budget modification would be required upon receipt of funds. No disbursement of funds has occurred yet.
 - As of 09/24/2025, the available balance was \$0.00.

05. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

06. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- October 14, 2025- Governing Board Regular Meeting @ 5:30 PM
- October 28, 2025- Governing Board Work/ Study Meeting @ 5:30 PM

07. NEXT IEC MEETING: October 15, 2025 @ 5:30pm (subject to change)

08. ADJOURNMENT: at 6:48pm

Motion to adjourn by: Lisa Harris

Second by: April Endischiee

Vote: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained

Motion carried.