



Title VI Native American Family Committee
5:30-7 p.m., Oct 21, 2025, DO Rm 102

Voting Members in Attendance: Micheala Vendiola, Jana Finkbonner, C.C. Compton, Candace Woodfork, Sybil McLean and several non-voting members present.

Co-chairs: Dr. Kristen French (via Zoom), Isabel Meaker, Dr. Janis Velasquez Farmer, Yana Mansfield

Introduction

Yana opened the meeting with brief introductions and land acknowledgment, and the committee was led into an activity by Isabel where the members selected an item from newly purchased art/cultural supplies and shared why it resonated to their culture, family, or a life moment. The group was asked how these items and similar items could support students with cultural identity and in the classroom.

Reflections included:

- Ribbon skirts/regalia visibility in schools; desire for stigma-free cultural expression.
- “Every Child Matters” - Importance of Orange Shirt Day and remembrance of residential school harms. Affirmation that each child and lineage matters.

2024–25 Grant & Budget Overview

- Yana and Janis provided an overview of Title VI-related funds and intended categories: coordination/admin support, supplies for instruction, technology/program management, instructional partnerships, and student activities.
- Janis explained that final allocation decreased by 10% after the federal review of 506 form submissions (some forms were excluded for missing tribal ID numbers).
- Janis discussed the commitment to align spending with last year’s priorities (culture enrichment, student leadership/literacy, and parent involvement).

506 Forms: Process, Barriers & Next Steps

Janis led the group in a discussion regarding the 506 forms. Key points included:

- Some members were confused about tribal ID requirements. Families were initially told tribal numbers weren't required, but the forms without tribal numbers were rejected.
- There is not a published list of acceptable alternative documentation from the Office of Indian Education (OIE); forms expected to be revised in June 2026.
- There was a discussion to digitize the Intake of 506 forms similar to Seattle Public Schools (DocuSign/DocuPad); BPS uses Skyward. Currently there is no location in Skyward to attach proof of tribal affiliation.
- The committee members asked for clarification on who verifies the 506 forms? And how they are entered into the system. There was concern that students who identify as Native may be missed in demographics. The committee asked for multiple touchpoints beyond student registration.

Agreed directions:

- The district will consult IT on a digital submission/attachment path that integrates with Skyward.
- Develop a clear guidance sheet for families and school staff on why the 506 forms matter and what to submit (ID vs. alternatives).
- Proactive outreach:
 - 506 form push at student registration and throughout the year (tables at Family Nights, school events, etc.).
 - Consider periodic 506 Form Parties with on-site support.
- Janis discussed doing a data cleanup and cross-checking the current 506 database to confirm the forms on file are valid and will notify families of any missing information.

Student Leadership & Events

- Riley Fincher provided an update regarding the Squalicum Native American Student Union (NASU) club, including student-led activities; peer-to-peer outreach to other schools.
- pow wow planning: Target date April 25; aim for a youth-driven, district-wide inclusive event.

- Encourage structured student voice with potential opportunities to present to the School Board.

Orange Shirt Day & District Proclamation

- A committee member expressed an interest in district-level proclamation (example: Marysville School District). There was discussion that the ask should be directed to the School Board (via upcoming linkage session).

Mental Health & Crisis Response

- One of the committee members is on the Lummi Behavioral Health Crisis Outreach Team. This team is available to respond to school-based crises (24/7). Preference that Native students receive culturally responsive care.
- Next steps: share program information and referral pathways with counseling teams; explore training/resources (e.g., Reef Net wellness model; suicide prevention adaptations with cultural lens).

Bylaws & Committee Structure

- Janis explained that the committee needs to finalize bylaws to clarify roles (president/vice president/secretary/data lead), quorum, membership (voting/non-voting), attendance expectations, and reporting cadence to Superintendent and the Board.
- Several committee members expressed interest in serving on the Bylaws Workgroup (names to be confirmed at a later date).

Next Steps

- Proceed with IT exploration for digital 506 intake integrated with Skyward.
- Form a Bylaws Workgroup to draft bylaws.
- Move forward with pow wow planning for April 25 (student-led focus).
- Plan targeted 506 outreach pushes at school events and provide clear family guidance.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is planned for Monday, November 18th • District Office Rm 102