



NATIVE AMERICAN EDUCATION
700 7th Street South
Fargo, ND 58103
701.446.1057 • FAX: 701.446.1200
www.fargo.k12.nd.us/NativeAmerican

Melody Staebner, *Coordinator* • 701.446.1054
Darlene Boyle, *Elementary Liaison* • 701.446.1057

Native American Education Parent Committee

Meeting Minutes

Microsoft Teams meeting

January 13, 2026

1. Call to Order at 6:10 pm, Land Acknowledgement Statement, Roll Call, and Introductions – Chairperson April Graves

Members Present: Dakota Harmon, Brandon Baity, Jane Jorgensen, Melonie Bald Eagle, April Graves, Amber Mattson

Visitors Present: Melody Staebner

2. Approval of November 12, 2025 minutes - Motion to approve by Melonie Bald Eagle, second by Jane Jorgenson. All members voted aye; motion carried.
3. Program Updates:
 - The Native American Education program has two open mentor positions for Fargo North High School and Fargo South High School. These positions will be funded by the North Dakota Juvenile Justice grant, which is set to end next year.
 - Trinity Michlitsch is the current mentor at West Fargo High School and Caleb Neeland is the current mentor at Ben Franklin Middle School.
 - The Cultural Specialist position is currently on hold. Program Coordinator will meet with Administration to advocate to keep this position funded, although there have been no candidates who meet the position requirements. An individual from Bismarck, ND showed interest, but only if the position was full time. Program Coordinator will advocate for a full time Cultural Specialist position rather than the advertised 3-day work week.
4. Financial Report:
 - Current Total Program Budget = \$199,195.24
 - Title VI grant - \$171,472 with 638 student count. \$15,799.16 is designated for program activities.
 - Fargo Public Schools General Fund = \$15,823.24 designated for program activities.
 - West Fargo Public Schools General Fund = \$11,900 designated for activities.
 - North Dakota Juvenile Justice SAG Grant = \$52,358

- Fargo Public Schools Foundation Donation account = \$5,376.47
- Fargo Public Schools Foundation Critical Needs = \$1,797.68 (\$400 designated the 1st semester with a rollover from previous year of \$1,397.68)
- Native American Education Parent Committee (NAEPC) fundraising account = \$5,855.54. Program Coordinator has utilized \$478.68 of the \$500 approved by the NAEPC (for items needed for the Winter Gathering which could not be purchased with Program funds). The NAEPC and Program Coordinator discussed the requirement of receipts for items purchased from the NAEPC fundraising account to comply with the by-laws. The Program Coordinator and Liaison will scan receipts and attach to a Fundraising Account Google document for transparency.

5. Events

- Reading Program scheduled for February 25, 2026. Storytelling will be presented by Anna Sheppard.
- Youth Leadership Day and the Reading Program may be combined for an all-day programming event with leadership activities during the day and reading activities during the evening. Prairie Rose Seminole was a suggested speaker for the leadership day activities.
- Woodlands and High Plains Powwow is scheduled for March 28, 2026.
- High School Graduation Celebration was discussed by the group. The Program Coordinator is in need of a contact to obtain eagle feathers for the graduates. Only 20 eagle feathers allowed per application from the National Eagle Repository and the applicant has no choice on whether they receive feathers or plumes. On average, there are about 20 graduates that attend the graduation celebration. Star quilt pricing was discussed, member Amber Mattson will look into Pendleton blanket pricing.
- Fundraising ideas that were discussed include a raffle of the star quilt previously purchased by the NAEPC. Program Coordinator will research MN and ND raffle regulations. A frybread taco fundraiser was discussed and member Brandon Baity will reach out to Tanya Red Road/Tee's Tacos for a possible collaboration with the Program. The NAEPC discussed the possibility of purchasing a vendor booth at the Woodlands and High Plains Powwow to sell donated items with earnings to go towards the NAEPC fundraising account.

6. Old Business

- Winter Gathering was a success with approximately 450 individuals in attendance. The Honor Society had 3 students who volunteered to help. The Program Coordinator will send them a thank you card.

- Native American Heritage Month – FPS will continue school wide teaching through First Nations Consultants (NDSU grant funds) while WFPS declined to do a pilot program for school wide teachings.

7. New Business

- Listening Sessions are scheduled for Thursday, January 15, 2026 from 12-1:30 pm via Microsoft Teams. Member Amber Mattson will represent the NAEPC and stressed how important it is for the Program to show Administration the positive impact the Program has on students and families.
- The Program needs to hire two mentors for Fargo North and Fargo South High School.
- Program Bylaws need to be reviewed and approved next month.
- Student Representative position may need to be advertised again because the student, Ariel Brien, cannot be contacted.
- Teacher Representative position was discussed and Lynn Green is interested. The Program Coordinator will invite her to the next NAEPC meeting.

Adjourned at 7:35 by Chairperson April Graves