



Native American Family Committee
Meeting Notes

5:30 – 7:00 p.m. January 13, 2026, District Office Room 102

Voting Members in Attendance: CC Compton, Michelle DeAsis, Sharece Steinkamp, Michaela Vendiola, Yana Mansfield

Co-Chairs: Dr. Kristen French, Isabel Meaker, Dr. Janis Velasquez Farmer

Updates:

Bylaws Review

The committee reviewed the current bylaws draft, which has undergone multiple revisions incorporating prior feedback, grant requirements, district expectations, and committee input.

Janis shared that the majority of revisions have been addressed. The bylaws are intended to guide committee operations, decision-making, and future structure.

The committee confirmed the goal of moving the document forward for review by voting members. A final draft will be distributed via email, and voting members will be asked to indicate approval or rejection. At this time, the committee is operating in an advisory role within the district's current structure.

If the bylaws are not approved, the committee will reconvene to address revisions.

Key Discussion Points

- **Tribal Inclusion:** Language was revised to better reflect inclusion of Native families from multiple tribal backgrounds while honoring local tribal relationships.
- **Committee Role:** Bylaws govern committee operations and do not extend authority over district processes, including hiring.
- **Membership & Voting:** The committee must maintain a majority of Native family members. District staff serve in a non-voting, supportive role.

- **Terminology:** Use of “American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN)” for federal student categories and “Native” for broader references was confirmed.

Funding Overview

The committee reviewed available Title VI funding. It was noted that current meeting expenses (e.g., food) are supported through a separate district budget.

Following bylaws approval, the committee will begin recommending how funds are allocated, including cultural events and programming. Planning may begin prior to final approval using the current charter structure.

Subcommittee Work

The committee identified two priority areas:

- Cultural/Social Events
- 506 Form Outreach

Members will begin coordinating subcommittee work, with an option to share contact information for direct collaboration.

Cultural Events & Engagement

The committee discussed developing quarterly cultural events focused on:

- Arts, crafts, and tribal-specific cultural activities
- Opportunities for family connection and community building
- Incorporating traditional foods and take-home items

Additional ideas included cultural demonstrations, student recognition (e.g., Canoe Journey participation), and partnerships with community members and organizations.

Feedback from prior events highlighted the importance of creating space for Native families to connect.

506 Form Outreach

Discussion focused on increasing awareness and completion of 506 forms through:

- Family-centered events with on-site support
- Simplified communication and potential video resources
- Outreach through district platforms and classroom connections

It was noted that the form is expected to change in June, and future efforts should remain adaptable.

Next Steps

- Distribute final bylaws draft to voting members
- Collect approval/rejection responses
- Begin subcommittee planning for events and outreach
- Continue developing cultural programming and engagement opportunities

Next Meeting

The next meeting is planned for Tuesday, February 10 - District Office Rm 102