



Title VI Native American Parent Committee Meeting
5:30-7 p.m., Tuesday, April 14, 2026, DO Room 103

Voting Members: CC Compton, Jamie Hensley, Yana Mansfield, Sybil McLean, Michaela Vendiola.

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

Welcome and Review of Goals and Activities

- Janis reviewed goals and activities identified by committee for this school year.
- Janis noted that a request for additional agenda items was sent to the committee and none were provided.

Updates and Calendar

Coordinator

- Ashlee Castens was hired today as the Title VI Coordinator. She currently serves as a school counselor at Columbia Elementary.

Native Graduation Gathering

- The graduation celebration committee reported on the meeting that occurred just prior to the committee meeting including potential locations, food, logistics, activities and attire. The group included families who have experience planning graduation celebrations in other settings and two graduates. The group would like to create a relaxed atmosphere, recognize graduates individually, and to invite local leaders of Tribal Nations to provide an introduction.
- The date has been selected: Friday, May 29, 2026 in the evening.
- If time allows, the graduation planning group might plan a session for families to create regalia with beads, devils club beads and/or cedar caps in preparation of the graduation.
- The group plans to meet again.
- Committee members asked the district to send a message to the group of potential Native graduates to share about the graduate recognition planned at the SQHS

NASU Pow Wow. BPS staff agreed to share this info along with other opportunities for Native graduates such as the graduation celebration.

Review of Grant Application

- BPS Staff member Amelia Vader presented the requirements for the upcoming grant submission and new allocation.
- BPS applied for a multi-year grant, which keeps the same goals and activities from previous year, which were based on the needs assessment completed.
- Required steps prior to Part II submission deadline include: Public hearing, committee approval for budget tonight, tribal collaboration.
- We have received initial allocation for school year 2026-27, which is an increase from this school year: \$31,811
- The application deadline is May 11, 2026.
- The group suggested and discussed budget changes, including:
 - Increase funds for Coordinator position: Move funds from Admin Assistant to Coordinator position to allow for more hours per week. No current plans to change the BPS staff who support the committee work.
 - Coordinator hiring for next year: A group member suggested that it could make sense to hire someone with experience or connections to the local tribes. The committee would like to offer their expertise for future hiring processes.
 - The group agreed with the goal of boosting services to students and families, beyond the activities organized by this committee.
 - Question from committee: Can committee chair access the website to make edits?
 - Might need coordinator to take on this responsibility but committee members can collaborate with coordinator to suggest edits and content.
 - The group agreed to reduce funds from Native Consultants line item by \$2000 to add funds for direct instructional delivery to ensure adequate support for student-centered educational activities.
 - Motion to approve: There was group consensus to approve the grant application with 100% approval, and Michaela Vendiola signed the approval form.

Grant requirements: Public Hearing

The committee decided that the following meetings would take place at the district office on April 28, 2026:

- Native Graduation Planning meeting, 4:30-5:30 p.m.
- Public Hearing for Title VI, 5:30-6 p.m.
- NAFC review committee applications, 6-6:30 p.m.

Upcoming Committee Membership Applications and Outreach

- The goal is to hold vote on applications at the May 19 meeting, and elect officers at first meeting of the school year.
- The committee discussed committee recruitment and application including the draft application form sent to the committee via email. BPS hopes to send out an email to all families about applications as soon as possible.
- BPS staff clarified that current committee members should apply and the current committee will vote in memberships.

Additional Agenda Item: Pow Wow updates

Riley Fitchett shared an update on the upcoming Pow Wow on April 25. The Squalicum NASU students are making agenda sheets to help people know what to expect. Riley has a volunteer sign-up and has plenty of things to do. Email Riley.Fitchett@bellingshamschools.org if you would like to volunteer especially for clean-up, and kids corner. There is a specific need for committee members to staff the registration table.

Additionally, Intertribal youth council coalition will be collecting donations for foster care supplies such as unused toiletries, personal care items, shoes, clothed, cultural items and other packaged items at the pow wow.

Next steps:

- Prepare for April 28 meetings, including the public hearing.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.
- Next meetings scheduled: Tuesday, April 28 and Tuesday, May 19.