

## BOARD STUDY SESSION MEETING MINUTES

January 23, 2024

This entire meeting can viewed at: <https://vimeo.com/906122492?share=copy>

### **Call to Order**

President Williams called the Study Session of the Shoreline Board of Directors to order via Zoom at 6:00 p.m. on January 23, 2024. The meeting was also streamed in the Board Room at the Shoreline Center.

### **Roll Call**

Present: Emily Williams, President; Sara Betnel, Vice President; Sarah Cohen, Director; Sylvia Gil, Director; and Meghan Jernigan, Director.

The following topics were discussed:

### **Tribal Sovereignty**

#### **Government-to-Government Relationships**

#### **Tribal Consultations**

*OSPI Office of Native Education Presenters:*

*Maxine Alex, Tribal Consultation Program Supervisor*

*Willard Bill, Jr., Assistant Director*

*Anna Hernandez-French, Policy and Implementation Manager, Government Relations*

The Office of Native Education (ONE) provides assistance to school districts in meeting the educational needs of American Indian and Alaskan Native (AI/AN) students. ONE serves as a liaison between OSPI and school districts, Tribal governments, State-Tribal Education Compact schools (STECs), Tribal schools, Native communities, parents/guardians of Native children, and other groups and individuals.

ONE was established in the 1960s and House Bill 1820, passed by the Legislature in 2011, placed the office into statute. ONE does not have “permanent” funding but allowed in statute “as long as there are funds.” There have been 10 directors since its formation and currently there are eight employees.

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2016 is the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). ESSA replaces No Child Left Behind (NCLB). There are two main qualifiers for federal consultation within ESSA. Districts that are required to do this (39 in Washington) are those that receive Title VI grants in excess of \$40,000, and/or 50% American Indian and Alaskan Native enrollment. Areas of consultation include: Title I, Part A, C and D; Title II, Part A; Title III, Part A; Title IV, Part A and B; and Title VI, Part A, subpart 1.

All administrators must earn at least five continuing credit hours (clock hours) of professional learning focused on Government-to-Government Relationships with federally recognized Tribes in order to renew a residency, professional, initial, and continuing certificates in the role of principal, program administrator, superintendent and CTE director. These five hours are part of the 100 clock hours required for certificate renewal.

- A Brief History of Tribal People in Washington State
- Identifying Native Students in Public Schools
- Agents of Change: School Leadership Behaviors and Dispositions
- Creation of Government-to-Government Systems
- Colonization, Boarding School and Historical Trauma

Ms. Alex explained in detail the Tribal Consultation process. Currently there are 39 districts and nine tribes for which Tribal Consultation is a requirement. (Shoreline has not applied for Title VI funds so they are not on the list of participants.) This number wax and wanes according to the receipt of Title VI funds, which is a formula grant. Formula grants are contingent upon the number of students identified and being served. The list for 2024-2025 is in development right now; there will be some additional school districts and one district will be dropping off the list. This is a relatively new process and is an ongoing work in progress. It takes time to get it right and the Office of Native Education is at the ready to guide districts through it.

Ms. Alex shared a video on the topic of Tribal Sovereignty and then explained three components in particular: Inherent, Right of Tribes, and Self-Governance.

- Inherent – Possession is inherent, which means that it comes from the tribe itself and existed before the founding of the United States. Tribal Sovereignty is not absolute, but rather is subject to certain limits resulting from the unique relationship of the tribes to the United States.
- Right of Tribes – Tribal Sovereignty is the right of tribes, as ‘domestic dependent nations,’ to exercise self-determination and the right to self-government, unless these powers have been modified by an act of Congress.
- Self-Governance – Tribes have the authority to govern their people, and their land; define their own citizenship, adopt tribal legislation, law enforcement oversight with separate judicial systems; and impose taxes in certain situations. Encourages tribal governments to exercise greater control over their planning and budgeting processes to meet local and tribal needs. Often, tribal citizens become more involved in the governing process and the identification of local needs such as tribal consultation.

There are 574 federally-recognized tribes in the United States; 29 in the State of Washington. Washington only recognizes federally-recognized tribes; other states have state-recognized tribes. Membership in a sovereign tribe is what distinguishes American Indians as a political group rather than solely an ethnic minority. Tribes determine qualifications and definitions of tribal citizenship.

The full presentation can be viewed at: <https://app.eduportal.com/share/ea2b6b1e-b97f-11ee-a883-06c64aa3b8d4>

The presenters and board members engaged in a thoughtful question and answer discussion. Of note, Ms. Alex mentioned that the majority of American Indian/Alaskan Native students in Washington State are not from local tribes; they are from out of state. Approximately 97% of tribal students within the state attend public schools.

Adjournment: 7:28 p.m.

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Sara Betnel, Board Vice-President

Attest: March 19, 2024

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Dr. Susana Reyes, Secretary  
Shoreline Board of Directors

**All documents referenced in the minutes may be viewed in the Superintendent’s Office during normal business hours.**