



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

Arizona Early Child Development and Health Board Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council MINUTES

Welcome and Roll Call of Regional Council

A Regular Meeting of the First Things First Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council was held on September 12, 2014 at 12:00 p.m. DST. The meeting was located at the Navajo Nation Child Care & Development Fund Office, Conference Room, Highway 264 and Indian Route 12, Window Rock, Arizona 86515.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Martin at approximately 12:05 p.m. followed by roll call of the Regional Council.

Members Present: Grace Boyne and Dawn Yazzie attended in person. Victoria Begay, Amelia Black, Harry Martin, Rhonda Etsitty, Valonia Hardy and Paula Seanez attended via phone.

Members Absent: Benjamin Barney

FTF Staff Present: Melissa Begay and Elyse Dempsey attended in person. Jeanne Martin attended via phone.

Conflict of Interest: Council Members will Address Potential Conflicts of Interest Regarding Items on this Agenda

There were no conflicts of interest at this time.

Discussion and Possible Action to Approve a Government to Government Agreement with Holbrook Unified School District under the Expansion: Start-Up and/or Capital Expense Strategy for SFY2015

Under the Expansion: Start-Up and/or Capital Expense Strategy, Regional Director Begay provided information regarding the grant agreement with Holbrook Unified School District (HUSD) to expand the preschool program in Indian Wells, Arizona with two additional preschool classrooms. Regional Director Begay reported that HUSD operates two preschool classrooms in Indian Wells that are currently enrolled in Quality First. According to the regional 2012 Needs and Assets Report, an estimated total of 755 children, ages birth to five, reside within the area. With the additional classrooms scheduled to open on October 20, 2014, capacity will increase from 48 to 90 preschool aged children. In addition, the two additional classrooms would also enroll in Quality First, enabling an increase in access to high quality early care and education services as well. The preschool currently serves both special needs and general education students in communities of Indian Wells, Dilkon, Greasewood, Teesto, White Cone and Jeddito. The grant award would begin on October 1 through June 30, 2015, and support coaching and assistance, purchase of equipment and supplies, and financial support for salaries and benefits for teaching staff. HUSD is currently advertising for personnel positions.

Regional Director Begay also commented on the dollar discrepancy between the amount identified in the budget and the final amount requested, reporting that the increase in dollar amount was finalized in clarification discussion with HUSD.

Member Yazzie entered at 12:18 p.m.

Chair Martin inquired of the amount designated for travel expenses for professional development, and advised HUSD to consider requesting an increase for travel expenses.

Dr. Robbie Koerperich, Superintendent of Holbrook Unified School District, clarified that supplemental funding will be provided by other sources for any additional costs. In addition, teachers will attend professional development opportunities that would enable those teachers to be provided training strategies to implement within their school districts.

Chair Martin inquired of the permanency of the instructional aide funded by FTF for the initial year only. Dr. Koerperich reported that salary of the aide will be funded through other sources after SFY2015.

Member Seanez asked for clarification regarding the budget and inclusion of anticipated iPad purchases for use in the preschool classrooms. Dr. Koerperich reported that the iPads would serve as supplemental teaching tools in the preschool classrooms, and allow for easy transition for preschool students into elementary classrooms, which currently use and incorporate iPads. Dr. Koerperich reported that the school district is building toward a technological base instructional program in an effort to engage children and increase teaching strategies and learning capacities.

Member Yazzie recommended that Dr. Koerperich consider partnership with Navajo Head Start, which provides funding for salaries for early childhood teachers.

Member Seanez also recommended that supplemental funding is available through the Navajo Nation Growing in Beauty program for schools that are located on the Navajo reservation and serve Navajo students with disabilities. Dr. Koerperich recommended that contact be made with Dr. Jeff Meeks, HUSD Director of Special Education.

A motion was made by Member Begay that the Regional Partnership Council approve the Expansion: Start-Up and/or Capital Expense Government Grant Agreement with Holbrook Unified School District in the amount of \$66,720 for SFY2015, and recommend the school district work with Arizona Department of Education to develop the special education preschool staffing at Indian Wells Elementary to enhance the inclusionary model, seconded by Member Seanez. Motion carried.

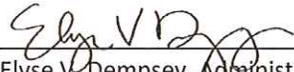
Adjournment

A motion was made by Member Seanez to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Member Black. Motion carried. Chair Martin adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:32 p.m.

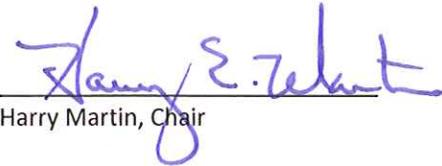
Dated this 16th day of September, 2014

ARIZONA EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH BOARD

Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council



Elyse V. Dempsey, Administrative Assistant II



Harry Martin, Chair