

The following resolution was moved by Tift and seconded by Ostendorf:

Dated April 19, 2021

Resolution in Response to Letter of Non-Concurrence

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes (M.S.) 124D.78 outlines expectations for parent and community participation in the education program for American Indian students;

WHEREAS, as per M.S. 124D.78, subd.2., in a letter to the school board dated February 17, 2021, the Native American Parent Committee issued a resolution of non-concurrence with educational programming for American Indian children as well as the following recommendations;

1. Beginning school year (SY) 2021-22 and each year thereafter, the AIPAC requests a written accounting of all funds available to, or received by, RWPS, either, earmarked for, or, as a result of, AI children being enrolled in RWPS. This includes, but is not limited to: Johnson O'Malley funds, Title VI, Title I, Indian aid, additional State and/or Federal funding and any grant opportunities presented to RWPS concerning AI students.
2. Beginning opening week for staff in the year 2021 and each opening week thereafter, diversity/anti-bias training will be provided for all teachers and staff in RWPS. Included in this training opening week would help make RWPS compliant with the MN Due North Education Plan.
3. Pursuant to MN Statutes, section 124D.77, RWPS shall establish a plan to have AI teacher(s) in the district by SY 21-22. At a minimum, RWPS shall establish working relationships with input from AI community members in all academic areas (i.e. art, literature, language, social sciences, agriculture, history, etc.). Increasing staff diversity is a priority in the MN Due North Education Plan.
4. In place by SY 21-22, RWPS shall create for-credit classes at the high school which include Native culture, history and language. At a minimum, we want RWPS teachers to establish working relationships with AI community members and/or Prairie Island Indian Community (PI). The AIPAC has a goal to offer Dakota language as an option to German and Spanish for all students in the high school.
5. RWPS shall partner with the AIPAC in the writing and management of grants available to AI students with RWPS.

WHEREAS, as per M.S. 124D.78, subd.2., the school board must respond in writing within 60 days, in cases of non-concurrence, to each recommendation made by the parent committee and state its reasons for not implementing the recommendations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the School Board of Red Wing Schools, ISD 256 hereby responds to the Letter of Non-Concurrence:

1. In response to Recommendation 1:

When requested, the district will provide funding information (such as budgets, grant applications/awards, and actual revenues/expenditures) to the parent committee for programs generating revenue based on how many American Indian children are enrolled because they are American Indian. The district will also provide funding information (such as budgets, grant applications/awards, and actual revenues/expenditures) for any program in the district when requested.

Currently, the district receives Title VI and American Indian (AmI) funding earmarked for services for American Indian children. If other funding sources become available (such as Achievement and Integration aid), financial information will also be shared with the parent committee.

2. In response to Recommendation 2:

For the next three years, the district will provide diversity/anti-bias training intended for all employees during the opening inservice week. After the three-year period, the district will work with stakeholders to determine what equity-related training should be offered and the timing of that training.

The district is unable to guarantee the specific form and timing of diversity/anti-bias training in perpetuity because of the need for flexibility in topics and timing. For example, some training may be better suited for days throughout the year rather than during opening week. There may also be a need to focus on other equity-related topics (such as the Perspectives training conducted during summer, 2020) instead of specific diversity/anti-bias training.

3. In response to Recommendation 3:

The district will formulate and begin to implement a plan to actively recruit American Indian teachers and other staff members for open positions; however, we cannot guarantee that American Indian teachers will be hired for 2021-22. In conjunction with the parent committee, the district is also willing to establish relationships to review curriculum offerings and standards.

4. In response to Recommendation 4:

The district is offering a course for 11th and 12th graders entitled “Native Literature” and will schedule the course for 2021-22 if enough register for the class. On November 23, 2020, a presentation was given to the Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Committee. The following course description as included in the RWHS Program of Studies:

“Native Literature will serve as an overview of indigenous literature across the globe from oral storytelling to contemporary work. We will examine the structure of the story and the moves native storytellers make in response to historical events and indigenous pride. From poetic folklore to works of current identity, Native Literature seeks to center indigenous voices with special attention to local Minnesota tribes such as Dakota and Anishinaabe as well as global voices such as the Sami, Metis, Maori, Inuit, and many others. Work will include creation tales as well as a choice research project on an aspect of indigenous culture.”

The district will encourage employees to access curriculum resources (such as the Native American Parent Committee and Prairie Island Indian Community) within the Red Wing community.

Led by Osseo Public Schools and the Prairie Island Indian Community, the district applied for a grant to provide a Dakota Language and Culture teacher beginning in 2022-23 for four years.

Subject to budgetary constraints and staff availability and qualifications, the district will continue to explore possible additional for-credit classes in the future.

5. In response to Recommendation 5:

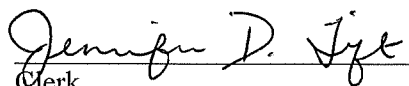
In conjunction with the parent committee, the district will review grant opportunities. If the parent committee and district agree to apply for a grant, the district will provide resources to help write the grant. As with other grants, the district will manage grant programming and funding as well as consult with the parent committee as appropriate.

The vote on adoption of the Resolution was as follows:

Aye: Diercks, Ostendorf, Tauer, Tift, Bryant, Buck and Roe

Nay: None

Whereupon, said Resolution was declared duly adopted.

By: 
Clerk

Date: April 19, 2021