

**PENOBSCOT INDIAN SCHOOL DEPARTMENT
MEETING OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

May 24, 2021

Community via Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT

- Carole Binette, Chairperson
- Naomi Neptune, Vice-Chairperson
- David Sapiel, Sr.
- Jo-Ann Lolar
- Elisha Sockbeson

OTHERS PRESENT:

- Annemarie Swanson, Principal
- Dr. Reza Namin, Superintendent
- Beth Clifford, Maine Indian Education Curriculum Coordinator
- Leigh Peake, Gulf of Maine Research Institute
- Trish Carr, Wabanaki Public Health and Wellness

1. Chairperson Binette called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.
2. Motion by Ms. Lolar, and seconded by Mr. Sapiel, Sr. to approve the revised minutes of the April 26, 2021 meeting. Voted: Unanimous.
3. Presentation by Leigh Peake, Gulf of Maine Research Institute Culturally Sustaining MWEES: Building Watershed Investigations that Start from Cultural Science Project Proposal. Maine Indian Education and its schools will be involved with the Culturally Sustaining MWEES: Building Watershed Investigations that Start from Cultural Science project proposal is funded. During our conversations, both virtually and via email, Gulf of Maine Research Institute's Leigh Peake, has articulated the importance of centering cultural knowledge in all aspects of this project. This is a critical component that will significantly impact all aspects of programming in our schools. Our educators will be strongly encouraged to participate in this project. The professional development outlined in the project will support the expanded use of culturally relevant content and pedagogy in science and engineering as well as in all content areas. The opportunity to collaborate with WaYS and GMRI couldn't be better timed. District Leadership has been talking about strategies to increase cultural relevance in our programming. Through this project, our teachers will be immersed in the process of developing units of study that reflect the culture and its peoples. The members of the board expressed their support to the logic model and proposed timeline in the Culturally Sustaining MWEES proposal. The plan to utilize a three-year cycle on a specific area of study will allow our students to acquire the background information and foundational content knowledge needed to move beyond a "novice" level of understanding. It also provides a known context for introducing increasingly more advanced content and skills as their understanding deepens. During a conversation with Leigh, we discussed the progression of learning in the statistics and probability strand. This is just one of many examples in which our students' learning can be grounded in a meaningful and relevant context. Maine Indian Education's curriculum coordinator, Beth Clifford, will be engaging in the professional

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development training and supporting teacher engagement with planning and instruction during the grant. She has been eager to engage teachers in culturally centered practices for some time and is a strong proponent of this collaborative opportunity. Beth will work with teachers as they develop units of instruction (CS-MWEEs) and will monitor the alignment of curriculum, instruction, and assessment with the articulated standards and learning targets for each unit. We are pleased that this project aligns with our teachers' efforts to implement Maine's Learning Results (NGSS) adopted by Maine's legislature in the spring of 2019. We need to make sure to support the needs of our transgender students.

4. Principal Swanson reported the need to address the concerns with the flow of traffic, safety, and parents' pick up and drop off during the school day. The goal is to provide a better pick up and drop off flow of traffic for parents and the school bus activities during school hours.

5. Reports

Principal's Report: (Exhibit A)

Superintendent's Report: The new MIE Parents Academy link at the MIE website will provide parents information sessions regarding the partnership with the Lee Academy to provide current 8th graders a free 4 days and 3 nights of exciting residential and outdoor educational programming. ACORN Outdoor Education Programs will take place July 6-9 is for Girls and July 12-15 is for the Boys with transportation provided. There will be an informational session for all parents on Thursday, May 20 at 6:00 PM by the Lee Academy Representatives. Dr. Namin also informed the board of the new partnership with the Wabanaki Health organization to offer parents a series of presentations under "Guiding Good Choices". June 3 at 6:00 PM will be a presentation dealing with the topic of Commercial Tobacco and Vaping by Shantel Neptune is the Wətamóweyi (Commercial Tobacco Prevention) Coordinator for Wabanaki Public Health and Wellness (WPHW). Shantel (she/her/hers) is a citizen of the Penobscot Nation and is also Passamaquoddy and Oneida. Maine Indian Education Parents upon completion of each presentation will receive a \$15 Walmart Gift Card and earn Certificate of Completion Hours. Maine Indian Education Parents upon earning five Certificates of Completion and participate in five different sessions will receive a Gift Basket with a value of more than \$100.

6. Community Comments: There were no Community Comments.
7. Motion by Ms. Lolar and seconded by Vice-Chairperson Neptune to adjourn. Voted: Unanimous.
The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Reza Namin, Superintendent of Schools
Maine Indian Education
Penobscot Indian School Department

Indian Island School Committee
Principal's Report
MAY 24, 2021

Total enrollment: 86

As of today, we have had two full weeks of pk-8 learners in person. We have approximately 17% (15 out of 86) choosing remote learning for the rest of the school year. We have had one individual associated with school test positive for COVID-19 (see attached letter). One classroom is in quarantine until tomorrow (May 25).

Summer Academy is in the final planning stages. Charlene Huerth is camp director. Six teachers (5 from outside our school) have been hired to work the four weeks July 5-30. Campers are being actively invited and after we know which ones plan to attend, we will open the enrollment up to the rest of the students in grades 1-6. The theme is "Grow, Eat, and Go." We have a garden director also on board.

We had an annual facility safety inspection and program management review May 6th. An SOH Specialist came from South Dakota to inspect our fire protection systems, suggest trainings, and identify any unsafe, unhealthful, or noncompliant items/conditions around our facility. He highly encouraged us to have a more active safety committee that meets at least quarterly. I would love to invite a board member to be part of this team. Our first meeting will be the week of June 1st.

I am pleased to share that several teachers have been assigned to new grades. All are highly motivated (and qualified) to take on their new assignment. Zuo Francis will be middle school math, Julia Sockbeson will be middle school social studies, and Sue Colley will be grade 5 classroom teacher. We are actively looking to hire a special education teacher, a LCSW, a part time nurse, part time reading coach, librarian, and full time custodian.

Our seventh- and eighth-graders are participating in a **pilot program** with MIT's Edgerton Center and Beaver Works the last week of school (June 7-10). This is a STEM project that includes coding, communication, and building a project; MIT's motto is "*Mens et Manus*" which means "*mind and hand*." Kevin LaFLamme and Kathy Prue, as well as Roger Paul, are assisting the MIT professor who will be here June 7th.

NWEA state-mandated testing was completed for grades 3-8 last week. All students in person, and most who are home, took the reading and math tests. Grades 5 and 8 are taking the science test and will be complete this week.

We are fortunate that Brooke Ratliff, our ERC in Nashville, and Connie ALbert, from the BIE, realized the trauma we would cause by making our children test even more with the Bureau tests, and were granted a waiver. The testing calendar created by Diane Landean, our math coach, was a definite factor in their decision to grant the waiver.

Both last year's and this year's eighth graders have their "promotion/graduation" scheduled for Thursday, June 10. A tent has been rented and will be set up in our parking lot that day. Families will be able to sit together with social distancing still in place. Chief Francis will attend and address our rising ninth graders. Both ceremonies (6pm and 7pm) will be short but meaningful.

Beth Kingsbury is retiring this June, but she hasn't slowed down a beat! She has created a **Read Across the Nation summer reading program** for any student and

family who would like to participate. After a year of COVID, this is a wonderful way for families to participate in a book talk experience with the whole community. The theme is “becoming lost and reuniting” and after signing up, each family will be given books to read over the summer. We want to come back together before school starts with a community cookout/celebration (safely).

My **parent meetings** will be the first Thursday of each month, starting in June. Anyone with the Zoom link can join: <https://networkmaine.zoom.us/j/83013949552>

Facilities:

Check out the wonderful, kid friendly paintings on the side walks. Kelly Cookson and crew painted several games for learners to do to encourage movement. She had a new game built for the playground too. Thank you to Kelly for coming up with some great ideas to keep kids active. Thanks to Rick for building the structure.

Upcoming:

June 3: THU 5PM): Monthly Open Office Hour with principal--Please feel free to pop in: <https://networkmaine.zoom.us/j/83013949552>

June 7-10: MIT/Edgerton Center STEM program for 7th and 8th graders

June 10: 8th grade graduation/promotion

June 15: Last student school day

June 16: Last staff school day

June 21-July 2: Mad Science Summer Camp

July 6-July 30: 4 weeks of Summer Academy/Grow, Eat, and Go! Summer programming for grades one-five

Respectfully submitted,

Annemarie Swanson