

PENOBSCOT INDIAN SCHOOL DEPARTMENT  
MEETING OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2023 @ 5:00 P.M.  
Community Via Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carole Binette, Naomi Neptune,  
Jo-Ann Lolar, Elisha Sockbeson, David Sapiel, Jr.

OTHERS PRESENT: Lee Francis, Principal,  
Dr. Reza Namin, Superintendent.

AGENDA

1. Chairperson Binette called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.
2. Ms. Lolar made a motion to approve the minutes from January 30, 2023 meeting and seconded by Vice-Chairperson Neptune. The motion passed 3-0.
3. Presentation by Headmaster Judson McBrine from the Washington Academy Regarding Wabanaki Studies Partnership with the Maine Indian Education. Headmaster McBrine presented the Washington Academy plan to implement a Wabanaki Academy to offer Maine Indian Education Students and Parents an option to take part in a high school experience with a more relevant and culturally responsive curriculum with embedded students and family support, additional language and cultural relevant course as part of the amended graduation requirement for the Native American Students. This will be an additional option offered to the existing students in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade at the Maine Indian Education. The Washington Academy invests in additional social workers and cultural and language teachers with more culturally responsive curricula throughout the student high school experience. The partnership with the College and Career Planning at the Washington Academy and the University of Maine System will also provide a better transition for students into College or Career opportunities. The tuition for the students at the Indian Island School is a challenge and working on addressing the need.
4. Ms. Lolar made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Neptune to employ Kevin Laflamme as Spring Track Coach for the 2023 Season with an extracurricular contract. The vote was unanimous.
5. Discussion regarding Continuing Education. Chairperson Binette asked the school committee to take part in professional development opportunities regarding the current laws and regulations in education. It was recommended to have more professional development opportunities at the next May Joint Board meeting as well as taking part in the school committee workshops being offered by both the Maine School Management Association and the Bureau of Indian Education.

6. REPORTS:

PRINCIPAL'S (See Exhibit A)

SUPERINTENDENT'S

Dr. Namin informed the school committee that he enjoyed the time he spent the entire day visiting the classrooms and having lunch with students. He also informed the school committee the school community grant opportunity will be a five-year grant-funded opportunity to provide more culturally responsive programs to support the student's academic and emotional needs. The BIE funds of over a million dollars to address the school ventilation system will be a very slow process and completion expectations through the Federal Government and the Bureau of Indian Education.

7. COMMUNITY COMMENTS:

An update regarding the Outdoor Classroom Project was requested and will be provided at the March school committee meeting.

Principal Francis presented a draft of the job description for the Administrative Assistant Position and asked for input. The final draft will be presented to the March School Committee for School Committee Consideration.

Chairperson Binette made a motion to approve the revised school calendar and change March 24, 2023, from Professional Development to Student Day. The vote was unanimous.

Ms. Lolar made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Neptune., to enter executive session at 6:12 P.M. pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6) to discuss student and personnel matters where public discussion could damage reputations or violate the right to privacy. It was voted unanimously. The regular session reconvened at 6:58 P.M.

8. Chairperson Binette made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Ms. Lolar seconded the motion at 6:58 P.M., The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,



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