

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District
Title VII Indian Education Parent Advisory Committee Meeting
Meeting April 12, 2012 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM Soldotna Sports Center

CALL TO ORDER: **Timothy Vlasak, Acting Chair**
Meeting called to order @ 1:00 PM

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:	Laurel Hilts, Chair	S B English	Absent
	Amber Glenzel	Kenai	Present (telephonic)
	Betty Steciw	Chapman	Absent
	Gwen Chickalusion for		
	Chrystal Moon	Tebughna	Present (telephonic)
	Kathryn Baum Fjelstad	Ninilchik	Present
	Mary Christofferson for		
	Suzanne Jackson	Nikiski Middle/High	Present
	Tim Greene	Nanwalek	Absent
	Kate Schadle	KNYL Student Representative	Absent

STAFF PRESENT: Timothy Vlasak Director, Federal Programs and K-12 Schools
Sandra Miller Assistant Director, Federal Programs
Maribeth Snell Grants Specialist/Title I/Title VII/Migrant Ed.

OTHERS PRESENT: Amy Williams-Christopher Audience Member

Due to technical difficulties, the call-in number provided by the Sports Center was unable to receive multiple calls. A conference line was established and an attempt was made to convey it to telephonic participants.

I. INTRODUCTIONS & SEATING OF NEW MEMBERS

1. The committee and guests introduced themselves.

II. REVIEW TUTOR SUPPORT HIRED TO DATE

1. **Review:** Sandy Miller reported on the results of placement of tutors in Tebughna, Nanwalek, Susan B. English, Seward, (elementary, middle and high school) Ninilchik, Kenai Middle School and Nikiski Middle/High School. She began with a report on the “Over the Water School” identified as Susan B. English, Nanwalek and Tebughna. Students there received help in math, reading and language art. All three programs used a combination of “push-in” instruction (where identified students are assisted in the classroom) and the “pull-out” method (where students needing assistance are pulled out of regular classroom time.) Most support was offered during the school day, since after-school activities often conflicted with tutoring times. Some obstacles the program faced were that the tutors did not have enough time with the students, the tutors started late in the year, many of the older students were not interested and many had extended absences. Read Naturally, an online program used in conjunction with the tutoring, showed a great deal of success. Sandy reported on the overall assessment numbers and added that the targeted students unfortunately had their second assessments right after the SBAs and this likely had a negative impact on their scores and that the program hopes to avoid this next year. It was noted by the teachers and tutors involved that parents were thankful their children had help to make their school year successful and that students receiving support have had increased success with homework. Next Sandy discussed the program results for Ninilchik, Kenai Middle School, Nikiski Middle/High School and Seward Elementary, Middle and High School. Students

methods were used. Most support was offered during the school day. Obstacles the program faced in these schools included the late start for the tutors, push-in method didn't always allow for enough one-on-one time with students, some students resented being assigned intervention and older students did not want the help. Again, the students' assessment tests were administered right after the SBAs and likely affected their scores. Students in elementary schools and middle schools showed the most progress. Gwen from Tebughna asked if a class could be established just for the purpose of tutoring. Tim Vlasak explained that the main obstacle to that would be making the class part of the curriculum so that students could receive credit for it, which would require a certified teacher and may take up time that the student would otherwise use for an elective.

2. **Training for Tutors:** Tim Vlasak continued the tutor discussion by reporting on the training made available to tutors, teachers and administrators this year, specifically on training them on how best to use a tutor in the classroom. Amy Williams-Christopher suggested that this kind of training would be useful at regular teacher in-services. Tim concluded by adding that we would like to have tutors in place and committed to start next year before the school year starts. Tutor hours could be adjusted throughout the year according to need.

III. NATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL REPORT

- 1 Tim Vlasak reported the progress of the Native Youth Leadership Council on behalf of Teresa Kiffmeyer who was attending the AASG conference with a NYLC student. Principals at schools with participating students gave permission for students to be pulled from class and participate in monthly conference calls. Tim gave an updated of the Council's meetings and trips this year including the students' community service projects at the Native Youth Olympics/Peninsula Winter Games this past January. Two of the Council members, Randy Standifer and Christina Glenzel, were selected to go to the Arctic Winter Games in Canada. Tim added that future goals for the program include opening it up to students from 7-10th grades, offering site specific support for the program, similar to a club stipend, which would allow students to do more in their own communities, and earning school credit for participation in the council, much the same way some schools offer credit for participation in student government.

IV. PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Tim Vlasak began the discussion with what he considers priorities for the Title VII program, which he considered to be (1) Tutor placement and training (2) The Kenai Peninsula Native Youth Leadership Council. Dorothy Wagoner inquired about the Seldovia Institute, and Tim explained that it is a carpentry program with a Native focus—students make Native canoes and drums. Gwen Chickalusion also expressed that she thought it was a good idea to open the Kenai Peninsula Native Youth Council to freshmen and sophomores, but expressed concern that larger schools would have an unfair advantage if middle school students were included.

V. ADJOURN

1. Sandy concluded the meeting by informing the committee that the Title VII grant application is due on May 4.