
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District
Title VII Parent Advisory Telephonic Committee Meeting
Meeting November 25, 2013 4:00 PM – 4:30 PM Borough Building, Soldotna, AK

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dorothy Wagoner	Nikiski North Star Elementary
Ann Evans (for Sally Ash)	Nanwalek School
Rachel James	Seward Middle School

STAFF PRESENT:

Timothy Vlasak	Director, Federal Programs and K-12 Schools
Sandra Miller	District Coordinator, Federal Programs
Teresa Kiffmeyer	KPNYL Coordinator
Maribeth Snell	Administrative Secretary
Rachel Pioch	Tutor
Debra Blossom	Tutor
Jeff Ambrosier	Principal, Ninilchik School
Marilyn Johnson	Principal, Tebughna School
Nancy Kleine	Principal, Nanwalek School

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mike Peterson, Project Grad
Cami Wright, Kenaitze

I. INTRODUCTIONS

The committee and guests introduced themselves.

II. REPORT ON TUTORING

Sandra Miller reported to the Committee on Title VII Tutor Support. District currently had 1,020 students identified as Title VII eligible. Out of that number, 111 are receiving services in the following schools: Susan B. English, Seward Middle School, Soldotna Middle School, Kenai Middle School, Ninilchik School, Nikiski Middle/High School, Tebughna School, Nanwalek School and Port Graham School. The breakdown among the grades are as follows:

Grade	Number of Students Being Served
K-5	29
6	16
7	32
8	18
9	8
10-12	11

Middle school grades (6th -8th) receive the most services. Among the subject areas,
86 students receive tutoring in Math
36 students receive tutoring in Reading
24 students receive services in Language Arts (includes science vocabulary)

Tutoring varies by location depending on the need of the school. Some schools offer one-to-one tutoring with students while others pull students from the classroom or offer a “study hall” situation for homework support.

The need for tutors is determined by the fall Ed Performance data. The January and spring assessments help evaluate the efficacy of the tutoring, which will be reported to the committee at the next meeting. Tim

Vlasak also added that tutoring and tutor training were priorities that were identified by the Advisory Committee in the past.

III. NATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL REPORT

Teresa Kiffmeyer reported on the current activities of the Kenai Peninsula Native Youth Leadership Council. The district wide Council currently has 16 students from 9 schools with three applications pending. The Council had its first event in conjunction with Project Grad/Alaska Institute for Student Support in Port Graham this on October 25-27. The purpose of the event was to give the group and opportunity to learn and practice youth leadership empowerment, and the skills needed to stay focused on academic success. The second meeting will be in Tyonek March 6-9. The third meeting is organized in conjunction with Project Grad's Summer Institute held at the Kachemak Bay College Campus in Homer during the first two weeks of June. The Institute is an introduction to college life and students learn math, communication/English, science and other fields through a hands-on approach. Teresa also reported on the on-site Native Youth Leadership programs that are run by advisors at 8 different schools and involves 47 students. The following schools currently have on-site programs: Soldotna Middle, Nanwalek, Tebughna Port Graham, Susan B. English, Ninilchik, Soldotna High and Skyview High. The groups focus on leadership and include personal, social and community service components. Students can earn .5 elective credits each year that they meet the standards necessary for credit. Meetings are held for 4 hours each month and are set up to meet the needs of the school with some advisors choosing to meet 4 times a month for an hour while other may use all 4 hours for a Saturday event. Teresa also clarified that the district wide Council requires an application and references while the on-site councils are open to anyone who wants to participate district wide level. At the district level, a student must apply with a letter of recommendation and maintain a 2.0 grade point average to be eligible. Participation at the site-specific level is open to everyone. This helps develop interest in younger students and provide motivation to meet the requirements for the district wide program. Mike Peterson added that Project Grad is managing the on-site programs for Nanwalek, Ninilchik, Tebughna, Port Graham. In total, these programs involve around 50 kids.

IV. COMMITTEE QUESTIONS AND INPUT

Dorothy Wagoner asked how tutors are placed in schools. Tim Vlasak explained that while some schools may have a larger population of Native Youth, it is academic need that determines where tutors are placed. He added that after middle school, it is difficult to get students to come to tutoring. Ann Evans took the opportunity to complement Project Grad on the work they have done with the on-site KPNYL programs that they manage. Rachel James asked how on-site programs are determined. Tim explained that a school's principal tries to recruit the right teacher or staff member for the position. Rachel Pioch talked about her site program at SMS and their activities. Earlier in the year, they created modern art based on each student's native culture and wrote about how the piece connected to their culture. Most recently the students submitted a business plan to their principal regarding magnets they will be selling at their school to raise money for a CPR/First Aid class they want to take.

V. OTHER MATTERS

At the time of the meeting, it was stated that the next Advisory Committee teleconference would be set in February after the winter benchmarks but no specific date was set. The meeting has been scheduled for February 11 at 4:00pm.