

P.R.I.D.E.

Parents Restoring Indian Children's Desire for Education

MEETING TIME/PLACE: Tuesday, Nov. 2, 1999, 6 P.M. Saxman City Hall

FACILITATOR: Susan Pickrell, Parent & School Board Member

PEOPLE PRESENT: Bill Pfeifer, Gertrude Johnson, Al Johnson, Willard Jones, Mary Jones, Cheryl Dodson, Merle Hawkins, Stephanie Rainwater-Sande, Caryl Williams, Nora Dewitt, Cynthia Taylor, Jerry Taylor, Laurie Goodluck, John Thomas, Michael Lord, Larry Eklund, Bill Thomas, Diana Thomas, Randi Pickrell, Dorothy Smetstad, Hannah Ramiskey, Gigi Pilcher, Margaret Cloud, Yeda Hicks.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING:

- 1) Identify social/school problems of Native students in the school district.
- 2) Advise parents of the recent test scores on Native students in the school district's Title 9 program.
- 3) Solicit ideas /establish goals to solve these problems.
- 4) Set Goals and timelines and establish the organization for achieving goals.

The organization of the meeting was made up of members of the Saxman IRA Council, City of Saxman Staff, Ketchikan Indian Corporation Tribal Council and Staff, parents from Saxman and Ketchikan, Native Elders, interested community members, School District Staff and School Board. For purposes of future meetings this will be identified as the PRIDE (Parents Restoring Indian Children's Desire for Education) Committee and will be open to anyone who would like to participate. Meetings places will be alternated between Saxman Tribal House/City Hall and KIC Tribal Hall. Initially we will try to meet 2-3 times to set goals and assign people to accomplish goals and then meet on a quarterly basis to maintain communication.

SOCIAL PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED:

Parents are intimidated by the school setting, curriculum and materials
Substance Abuse by parents (FAS/FAE) - leads to other kinds of domestic violence/abuse/neglect
School staff not sensitive to students' extenuating circumstances
Students/Parents not taking responsibility for being prepared to learn
Generational problems for parents related to educational experiences (Boarding School, Racism, etc)
Poverty - low self esteem (lack of nice clothing, no breakfast/lunch, transportation to school)
Employment - seasonal work for parents, transiency
Parents need to be taught skills to be able to teach/work with their children
Student's disrespect for each other/school staff
Teen Pregnancy
Social Development - language barrier for parents

SCHOOL PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED:

Consistent attendance
Parental involvement - transportation, school conferences, special activities (volunteering/support)
Student's sense of belonging
Student's not seeing the relevance of education for their future
Not having positive role models - parents not reading at home, lack of Native teachers (3 out of 161)
Social Development
Culturally relevant/appropriate materials/curriculum for students, Inservice including all district employees
How to address problems
Student's inability to stay on task
Identify specific components of learning problems (need training in this area for parents and teachers)
Lack of resources

GOALS IDENTIFIED (HOW CAN WE HELP?):

Guidelines for recruitment of Native teachers - making this a priority for the school district

Addressing past problems/hostilities - building better communication/trust

Diagnosis of specific reading problems

Early childhood development - (including addressing language development)

Educating parents

Celebrating successes of Native students

Addressing health issues - early/consistent testing for hearing, sight and other health issues

Inservice for district staff - culturally relevant, acknowledgment of Native education history (not done for 6 years)

Providing culturally relevant curriculum and materials for Native students

Outside training for Fetal Alcohol Effects & Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Presentation at Ketchikan Indian Corporation Tribal Council Meeting Friday, November 5 at 6 PM.
for KIC Tribal Health Clinic Advisory Board & KIC Elder Advisory Board.

Follow up meeting - November 30 at KIC Tribal Hall - 429 Deermount 6:30 P.M.