

THREE AFFILIATED TRIBES
TRIBAL BUSINESS COUNCIL
TRIBAL CHAMBERS

Education Committee Meeting
December 2, 1992

- PRESENT: Wilbur D. Wilkinson, Chairman; Ivan Johnson, Vice Chairman; Austin Gillette, Councilmember; Jim Mossett, Councilmember and LaVerne Brady, Recording Secretary.
- ABSENT: John J. Rabbithead, Jr., Secretary; Roger Bird Bear and George Fast Dog on travel.
- OTHERS: Bernadine Young Bird, Education Administrator; Tino White, MHA Times Correspondent; Wilma Nelson, Consultant to Education Department; Twin Buttes School representatives: Eugene Holen, Sr., Paul Fredericks, Job Fredericks, Lonnie Spotted Bear, Lyndon B. Fredericks, Elaine Incognito, Lillian Holen, Mandaree School Representatives: Mr. Taylor, Alex Gwin, Maynard Young Bear, Gilbert White Owl, Harriet Good Iron, Tex Hall, White Shield School Representatives: Edmund White Bear, Sr., Frank White Calfe, Gene LaFromboise, Pliga Bordeaux, Wesley Duane Fox, Sr., Abigail Country, Assistant to Vice Chairman and Perry Brady, Sargeant at Arms.
- ITEM OF DISCUSSION: Welcoming of School Board Members by Chairman Wilkinson.

Discussion today include the certain issues that affect the education of our children and to make clear the Tribes' position on certain issues and to deal with or address certain issues that these school boards have in relation to the operation of education programs here on Fort Berthold.

Chairman Wilkinson stated during the school board meetings, we've talked about student achievements, per pupil costs, student/teacher ratios, and I'm concerned about Indian Preference, hiring in the schools and I want to discuss the Department of Education and our Education Code. The authorization for you schools to operate is by the Three Affiliated Tribes. There were certain conditions that the schools are required to adhere to.

Discussion on Resolution 89-94-TL.

The Chairman or someone representing the Mandaree School asked to come seat at the table.

MANDAREE SCHOOL:
Mandaree school's operational budget questioned.
(Budget distributed.)

Introduction of Mr. Taylor, Superintendent of
Mandaree School and Vice Chairman Johnson.

Chairman Wilkinson further stated for the purposes
of this meeting, I'd like to discuss the budget
status, what's happening there in Mandaree. I've
gone to Community Meetings and there's been a lot
of issues raised of our department but the require-
ment is the school boards are required to report to
the Tribal Council and that's the purpose of this
meeting.

Discussion on budget. This budget is according to
the State Code. There was a question on if this
included the administrative costs? Other discussion
included student per pupil cost, overall budget,
achievements scores, student skills, norms, student
teacher ratio, validity of test data and tracking
system.

Mr. Taylor stated he brought up a recommendation to
the Mandaree School Board that they consider an
assessment which involves an essay and reasoning.

Chairman Wilkinson stated the data regarding the
student levels provided by the schools was shocking
This was a problem affecting the five schools.

It was questioned how parents are involved as far
as planning. Response was through parent coordi-
nator and meetings.

Discussion on employees and Indian preference.
One goal of one school board member was to assist
students financially, give them a contract to come
back to work for the school, at least for a certain
amount of years, after completion of their school.

The Twin Buttes school differs from Mandaree or
White Shield on their testing. Mr. Lafromboise
passed out information in a booklet type of packet.
It was mentioned that Education may be a genera-
tional type of thing. Each school gets a Title 7
grant which is used for cultural classes.

DISCUSSION (CON'T):

Chairman Wilkinson stated we are pursuing three projects which are the bridge, hospital and a school with a dorm, a new facility at Mandaree. It is done by resolution. If there are any issues, I don't want to go halfway through the project and have people calling to senators or going to the news media and saying the tribe is not carrying out the wishes of the people. I will not present to the Tribal Council the retraction of that resolution so if there are issues that you feel should be put on the table, I want to start with that issue, then we will get into the code and the education department.

Discussion on bridge and what congress will accept and approve-building and replacement of bridge. Also make your wishes known to your councilman. Discussion also on dorm construction.

Chairman Wilkinson further stated a meeting was set up a year ago in Albuquerque NM where the school boards and some of the staff go down there to familiarize themselves with facility management money. That was a program that was taken away from the BIA and put in the office of OCM (Office of Construction Management). The money is competitive. It is based on data compiled by the agencies, prioritized by the area office and we compete nationwide in Albuquerque which is the FI&R/FY&R money. You're talking about a major renovation and it's getting on that priority list and if we don't get on that list, it will never get done but I was hoping that by getting you people involved directly with that office was to get your project prioritized higher. We're talking huge projects under FI&R. All this data has be on printout and one of the problems is is that the Bureau data was or will be non-existent so we are working with Mr. Walters now. That's the basis for getting the additional funding for the schools but under new construction, until the Tribal Council changes the priorities, they'll remain as proposed so make your concerns known.

It was questioned if in 1993, when the new regulations come out to apply for a new facility, before we do that, do we have to come before the Tribal Council to apply for a new school? Response was yes. It was also questioned if the Fort Berthold

DISCUSSION (CON'T):

Board Association gets together and supports each other on their ventures, would they have more support along with the Tribal Council?

Chairman Wilkinson stated so if the School Board Association feels that they need to prioritize what the Tribe is doing, they need to do it right away. If there are any differences between the schools, that needs to be resolved as soon as possible. The school board association and school boards were directed to get together and do a priority list.

It was mentioned that Twin Buttes had been discussing a new high school, Mandaree wanted a school because of the lifespan and White Shield wanted a renovation.

Chairman Wilkinson further stated we will proceed with the Mandaree Project until such time, the school boards and the Tribal Council decide otherwise.

Discussion on concerns of juvenile issues. Would it be possible to hire a position under ICEP?

Introduction of proposal writer, Wilma Nelson by Chairman Wilkinson. Wilma was directed to look into the Title 5 mentioned.

It was mentioned in order to get students grades up to par was through athletics. Also to eliminate usage of drugs & alcohol. Praise was given to Tex Hall by Chairman Wilkinson that through his efforts and his team, this tribe benefited by winning a tournament in Denver CO.

Discussion on the Education Code.

Chairman Wilkinson gave a short overview and Bernadine did a presentation. The overview included the report on the consultants, a requirement that was placed on the Education Department was that the Administrator was to meet individually with the School Boards, the code to be presented at the community meetings for input & comments. Bernadine stated she was planning to get a planning process established for the code, the philosophy & Mission Statement. The code is in the preliminary draft stage and we are not prepared to get it our yet

EDUCATION CODE (CON'T):
because it has not been reviewed. There are other sections that need to be developed into this code yet.

It was questioned if this was going to be presented at the communities? Response was anywhere we could get people together is where we could get input.

It was suggested that there needs to be separate meeting with the boards and community meetings.

Mrs. Young Bird clarified her position on the organization chart. She stated there was a concern on this as an indication of authority. That was not a line of authority chart. That was a chart to show all the entities that are under the authority the tribe but not direct line authority. If we are in a planning stage, we don't know what that is yet. As far as I can see, this is a chart to show all the different programs and facilities and agencies that are under the authority of the Tribal Business Council. I know there was a concern that as an Administrator sitting as a department under the Council that we somehow gave direct orders to yourselves, that is not the case and I know my job description is purely to work with this council and their directives so I think that needs to be clarified because there was an assumption that I was going to take over the schools. I've heard that several times in your association meetings and I've been very concerned about that. I don't have that kind of authority or power and this certainly doesn't indicate that, if it did, I'd like to clarify that at this time. As I said, this department is in the planning facilitators stage. We have nothing yet to be in place and at the community meetings, we hope will develop some of those kinds of things. The directives of the Tribe are another matter.

Attorney Urban Bear Don't Walk was asked to step into the meeting at 11:54.

Chairman Wilkinson stated my only concern on your charter is that the Fort Berthold School Board Association will never be independent from the Tribal Council or the Tribal Governing Body. Any entity established by the Tribal Council will

EDUCATION (CON'T):

always be subordinate to the Tribe. The enabling resolutions that authorize you to operate grant schools, that authorities been given to you by the Tribal Council and the authority given to you will be given to you by the Tribal Council and I want that understood so we don't have any issues in the future where the School Board Association feels that there are totally autonomous from the tribe. I've asked the Legal department to review the document and Language must be incorporated in that charter that so reflects that.

The School Board Association President, Arby Little Soldier and Attorney Urban Don't Walk directed to get together and get the charter resolved and get this document finished today and it will be acted on tomorrow.

Mrs. Young Bird stated funding was a concern also. She explained it would be good to do this in a unified manner under the tribe, the chances are much better to get some major funding for initiatives in education.

It was suggested if a school should be built, it should be in one central High School with dormitories and leave the others as grades schools. We could reinstitute the bridge that was approved for Twin Buttes and build a bridge from White Shield to Independence. The idea of that central school would unify our peoples and should be discussed. If we can't educate our own children after we have our school, then it's our own fault.

It was mentioned to the school boards as leaders in education to do something about this issue that we prioritize, if Mandaree is going to forego or if this thing is negotiated out and needs to be done relatively soon. If it is the desire of the school boards for this tribe to pursue a centralized school at one location, then I want to see that decision made, by you people as school boards. You represent the communities and from those priorities, we'll present that to the Council and key off from the priorities. If you do not prioritize, then we will pursue the projects as explained.

Discussion on the use of federal funds for lobbying.

Education Committee Meeting
December 2, 1992
Page seven

ITEM 02: ADJOURNMENT:
Meeting adjourned at 12:12PM.

Approved

Disapproved

John J. Rabbithead, Jr.
Secretary, John J. Rabbithead, Jr.

Date

12/8/92

ATTEST

Wilbur D. Wilkinson
Chairman, Wilbur D. Wilkinson

Date

12/8/92

Meeting with the school boards and Education Administrator
to resume at 1:30PM.