



BOARD MINUTES

Name of Committee: Bureau of Indian Education Advisory Board for Exceptional Students

Meeting Location: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and for the safety of all individuals the entire Advisory Board meeting was conducted online using the Microsoft Teams platform.

FACA Regulations: As an advisory board to a federal agency, the Board falls under the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA; 5 U.S.C., Appendix 2). FACA aims to ensure that the advice of federal advisory committees is objective and available to the public, and the committee complies with cost control and recordkeeping requirements. The BIE Advisory Board ensures all their board meetings are open to the public, all meeting notices are published in advance and are advertised using the Federal Register and posted on the BIE website at www.bie.edu. The BIE has provided a Designated Federal Officer (DFO) that is assigned to support the Advisory Board and the BIE ensures each board member avoid conflicts of interest and limits membership terms.

DAY – 1 Wednesday, March 9, 2022

Start Time: 8:00 a.m. Mountain Daylight Time (MDT)

- Welcome, Call to Order & Roll Call - Norman Shawanokasic, Chairperson

Advisory Board Roster attendance

1. Present - Norman Shawanokasic, Chairperson
 2. Present - Brenda Anderson, Secretary
 3. Present - Katinee Chavez, Board Member
 4. Present - Leslie Finnearty, Board Member
 5. Present - Dr. Perry Graves, Ed.D., Board Member
 6. Present - Marsha LaFollette, Board Member
 7. Present - Gretchen Lehmann, Board Member
 8. Present - Pilar Peltier, Board Member
 9. Present - Dr. Harvey Rude, Ed.D., Board Member
 10. Present - Teryl Running Horse, Board Member
 11. Present - John Struck, Board Member
 12. Present - Gretchen Wendell, Board Member
 13. Absent - (excused) - Dr. Robin Blitz, M.D., Board Member
 14. Absent - Cynthia Frank, Board Member
 15. Absent - Teresa McMakin, Board Member
- Gallery: Jennifer Davis, DFO was present. Due to technical difficulties the attendees' names for today's online board meeting was unable to be captured.



Webinar Logistics – A brief overview about the meeting purpose, objectives, board authorizations, public commenting sessions and meeting reminders were provided.

Introduction of new board members took place: Ms. Leslie Finnearty, Ms. Gretchen Lehmann and Ms. Pilar Peltier. Ms. Gretchen Wendell, new board member was available during the afternoon session. The current board members introduced themselves to the new board members.

Old Business – The DFO presented the September 22, 2021, board minutes to the board members. The board members provided no comments about the minutes. The minutes were approved. Dr. Harvey Rude motioned to accept the Sept. 22nd minutes, Marsha LaFollette second the motion. All were in favor to accept the minutes, none opposed.

New Business

- Agenda changes were made. The BIE Central Office Update will be moved from March 9, 2022, to Thursday, March 10, 2022, at 1:15 pm MST. Dr. Harvey Rude – made the motion to approve the amended agenda.
- The board will need to elect a new Vice-Chairperson and Secretary during the March 9-10, 2022, meeting. The Chairperson provided a brief review of the role and responsibility for Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary.
- Decide on the next board meeting dates.
- A Federal Register Notice is advertising to fill two categories: (1) Indian Parents/Guardians of Children with Disabilities within the BIE school system (Bureau Operated Schools or Tribal Controlled Schools); and (2) Indian Persons with Disabilities. The notice closes 4/15/2022. The DFO can be contacted for further questions.
- Norman Shawanokasic, Chairperson received an “Acknowledgement Letter”, from the Bureau of Indian Education, BIE Director regarding the 2021 Annual Report.

8:30 AM MST BIE Central Office Update - (Central Office Representative)

- The BIE Central Office Update was moved to Day-2, March 10, 2022 at 3:15 PM MDT. Dr. Rude made the motion to approve the updated agenda and Katinee Chavez second the motion. All agreed and no board member opposed.
- The Board members used this additional time to review the 2021 Annual Report

The Board requested to review the priorities listed in the 2021 Annual Report so that the new BIE Advisory Board members will be informed of the priorities that were sent to the DOI Secretary September 2021.

- The 2021 Annual Report was reviewed in its entirety and the three priorities were discussed.
- The 2021 Annual Report is located on the BIE website in the special education section.
- The Board review the Acknowledgment Letter (dated 2/9/22) sent to Norman Shawanokasic, Board Chairperson from the BIE Director, Tony Dearman.



- Dr. Harvey Rude, Board member mentioned the BIE does support from the BIE Director and the staff and the overall structure. He requested the BIE Advisory Board to have a meeting in Washington, D.C. in the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) so that the Board can engage in a more in-depth conversation with various DOI senior leaders to provide for a richer experience and that is when a lot of work does get done with in-person meetings. John Struck, Board member agrees with Dr. Rude's comments. If the travel restrictions are lifted the Chairperson recommended the September 2022 Board meeting should be changed to the Washington, D.C. area.

9:30 a.m. Board Reflection – Marsha LaFollette, Board member provided a summary for the new board members regarding the purpose of the Board reflection. No other comments were made.

10:00 a.m. Break (15 minutes)

10:15 a.m. Public Commenting Session

- Kim Franklin, School Principal from the Casa Blanca Community School. Is providing a "Grow Your Own" project for teachers and service providers for children with disabilities. Kim Franklin stated the BIE needs to go a lot further. There are a lot of staff nearing retirement years. I strongly recommend enhancing and expanding programs of "Grow Your Own" to prepare to fill vacancies.
- Jessica James, Tribal Education Program Manager for the Shoshone Bannock Tribes in Fort Hall Idaho. The comment was made about the hard work and service the BIE Board members and BIE staff do for providing services for Indian country.
- The DFO announced comments can be emailed, mailed, or faxed to the DFO. The chat box is also available to provide comments.

10:30 AM BIE Office of Sovereignty in Indian Education - Mr. Spike Bighorn, Program Manager

- This presenter was not available.
- The Board members used this additional time to work on the following items:
- Brenda Anderson, Board member requested a summary about the reason for including the BIE Office of Sovereignty in Indian Education that is led by Mr. Spike Bighorn, Program Manager. Dr. Harvey Rude, Board member provide the summary.
 - The Tribal Education Department (TED) grantees are funded by the BIE to assist the tribes to assume responsibility for their own Tribal Education Department and to control the overall management of their own schools. How is the BIE assisting the TED grantees to take on their responsibilities and what efforts are being done to provide services for children with disabilities. It's important to hear about the efforts to support tribal sovereignty.
- The board worked on developing the agenda for the June 2022 board meeting.



12:00 p.m. Lunch (1 hour)

1:00 p.m. Public Commenting Session - No comments were provided by the public.

1:15 - 3:30 PM BIE Special Education Program - Dr. Eugene Thompson, Supervisory Educ. Specialist

- A review of the preliminary FFY2020-2025 State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) was provided. Each state, including the BIE, develops a SPP/APR that evaluates the state's efforts to implement the requirements and purposes of the IDEA and describes how the state will improve its implementation. SPP/APRs include indicators that measure child and family outcomes and other indicators that measure compliance with the requirements of IDEA. States are required to submit a SPP every 6-years and must report against the targets in its SPP in an annual performance report. Stakeholder involvement is a crucial role in reviewing data and providing input on decisions to establish targets

2:30 PM Break (15 minutes)

3:30 PM Board Reflection – the Board commented on the presenter's report.

4:30 p.m. MDT Adjourn.

DAY – 2 Thursday, March 10, 2022

Start Time: 8:00 a.m. Mountain Daylight Time (MDT) - Welcome, Call to Order & Roll Call

Advisory Board Roster attendance

1. Present - Norman Shawanokasic, Chairperson
2. Present - Brenda Anderson, Secretary
3. Present - Katinee Chavez, Board Member
4. Present - Leslie Finnearty, Board Member
5. Present - Dr. Perry Graves, Ed.D., Board Member
6. Present - Marsha LaFollette, Board Member
7. Present - Gretchen Lehmann, Board Member
8. Present - Pilar Peltier, Board Member
9. Present - Dr. Harvey Rude, Ed.D., Board Member
10. Absent - Teryl Running Horse, Board Member
11. Present - John Struck, Board Member
12. Present - Gretchen Wendell, Board Member
13. Absent - (excused) - Dr. Robin Blitz, M.D., Board Member
14. Absent - Cynthia Frank, Board Member
15. Absent - Teresa McMakin, Board Member



Gallery: Jennifer Davis, DFO was present. Due to technical difficulties the attendees' names for today's online board meeting was unable to be captured.

Webinar Logistics – A brief overview was provided about the meeting purpose, objectives, board authorizations, public commenting sessions and meeting reminders.

Old Business – No issues were presented.

New Business

- The Board elected the following board members for the following positions:
 - Dr. Harvey Rude is elected as Vice-Chair. His position will begin 3/10/2022 and ends 7/9/2023. A motion was made by Dr. Perry Graves and to appoint Dr. Rude to the Vice-Chair position. Marsha LaFollette second the motion. All are in favor, no person opposed.
 - Leslie Finnearty is elected as Secretary. Her position will begin 4/2/2022 and ends 4/2/2023. A motion was made by Dr. Harvey Rude and John Struck second the motion. All are in favor, no person opposed.

8:30 AM BIE Special Education Program – Dr. Eugene Thompson, Supervisory Education Specialist

- Coordination of Services Plan (CSP) – The draft CSP purpose and plan was reviewed during this meeting. March 2009 was the last update for the draft CSP.
- Changes to the CSP are need such as updating names and position titles; removing organizations and structures that no longer exist; and update the data tables with the current school year's data and add data sources.
- Comments about the CSP were provided by the board members to the presenter.
- The following board members volunteered to assist with updating the CSP: Norman Chairperson, Chairperson, John Struck, Marsha LaFollette and Pilar Peltier, Board members.
- Marsha LaFollette requested the BIE's Special Education Policy and Procedures be reviewed during the next scheduled board meeting June 2022.
- Dr. Rude, asked about the staffing levels. The BIE/DPA/Special Education program has 4 vacancies and will be advertising soon. For the ERC's and schools, there are vacancies out in the field. The barriers are difficulties to recruit for isolated schools, dealing with COVID obstacles, the length of time to complete background checks.

9:30 AM Board Reflection – the Board discussed and commented on the presenter's report.

- It's quite unfortunate that at Dr. Thompson (state agency level) deals with clerical duties. His role needs to concentrate more on necessary projects for the BIE's special education program.
- Meeting in person we accomplished much more than when we meet virtually. Hopefully soon we can go back to meeting in person.



10:00 AM Break

10:15 AM Public Commenting Session - no comments were provided by the public.

10:30 AM Board worktime - work on priorities and work on next meeting agenda and logistics.

12:00 PM Lunch

1:00 PM Public Commenting Session - no comments were provided by the public.

1:15 PM MST BIE Central Office Update –

- Travis Clark provided a response for the following question that were provided by the board members.
 1. To better understand the status of the schools current reopening plans for SY2021-2022, the following questions are asked regarding this topic.
 - a. How many schools returned to face-to-face, or will some schools continue to operate remotely?
 - b. Will schools have the option to provide hybrid classes (remote and/or face to face) for students choosing not to return to the face to face? Would these hybrid classes be synchronous so all students would receive the same information at the same time?
 - c. Will students have 1-to-1 technology and curriculum to match if schools are required to move from face to face to distance learning because of a surge in cases?
 2. Provide input related to higher education (SIPI, Haskell, and tribal colleges) - How many of these schools offer training & degrees in special education and/or related services? How are these schools partnering with BIE funded schools in on-going professional development, recruitment of potential students in special education, and support of transition services for students with disabilities?
 3. Do you have any questions about the 2021 annual reports?
 4. What is the BIE's plan to work towards making progress regarding the recommendations within the 2021 Annual Report?

2:15 PM Break (15 minutes)

2:30 - 4:00 Board worktime

During this time the board worked on the agenda for the June 23-24, 2022 meeting. Questions for the presenters were also created.

4:00 PM Adjourn



Bureau of Indian Education Advisory Board for Exceptional Children, March 9-10, 2022 Virtual meeting

Purpose of the Meeting: The Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) Advisory Board members will be provided information from various presenters regarding the BIE's Special Education Program and to fulfill the requirements of meeting at least a minimum of two meetings per year.

Supplementary Information: This meeting is being held under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) of 1972 (5 U.S.C., Appendix, as amended), the Government in the Sunshine Act of 1976 (5 U.S.C. 552b, as amended), and Public Law 108-446 Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004, Part B, Sec. 611(a)(6); Sec. 612(a)(21)(A).

Online Meeting & Time Zone: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and for the safety of all individuals the BIE Advisory Board meeting will be conducted online. **The Mountain Standard Time (MST) zone will be used for this meeting.**

Due to technical difficulties the Zoom.Gov platform will not be used for this meeting.
Please use Microsoft Teams to access this Board meeting.

Microsoft TEAMS meeting access information

Topic: March 9-10, 2022, Meeting for the BIE Advisory Board for Exceptional Children

Time: Each day, 08:00 AM - 4:00 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

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DAY 1 - Wednesday, March 9, 2022, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM (MST)

8:00 AM MST BIE Advisory Board meeting - Board Chairperson and DFO

- Welcome, Call to Order & Roll Call - Norman Shawanokasic, Chairperson
- Webinar Logistics, Meeting Purpose, IDEA and FACA Regulations
- Introduction of new advisory board members
- Old Business - Review meeting minutes of last meeting
- New Business

8:30 AM MST BIE Central Office Update - (Central Office Representative)

1. To better understand the status of the schools current reopening plans for SY2021-2022, the following questions are asked regarding this topic.
 - a) How many schools returned to face-to-face, or will some schools continue to operate remotely?
 - b) Will schools have the option to provide hybrid classes (remote and/or face to face) for students choosing not to return to the face to face? Would these hybrid classes be synchronous so all students would receive the same information at the same time?



Bureau of Indian Education Advisory Board for Exceptional Children, March 9-10, 2022 Virtual meeting

- c) Will students have 1-to-1 technology and curriculum to match if schools are required to move from face to face to distance learning because of a surge in cases?
2. This question was asked during the July 28-29, 2021 Board meeting. Provide input related to higher education (SIPI, Haskell, and tribal colleges) - How many of these schools offer training & degrees in special education and/or related services? How are these schools partnering with BIE funded schools in on-going professional development, recruitment of potential students in special education, and support of transition services for students with disabilities?
3. Do you have any questions about the 2021 annual reports? Any ideas? What are your thoughts?
4. What is the BIE's plan to work towards making progress regarding the recommendations within the 2021 Annual Report?

9:30 AM Board Reflection – the Board will discuss/comment on the presenter's report.

10:00 AM Break (15 minutes)

10:15 AM Public Commenting Session - (15 minutes) - join by webinar or dial in using your phone. Use the online meeting access information is found on page 1 of this agenda.

10:30 AM BIE Office of Sovereignty in Indian Education - Mr. Spike Bighorn, Program Manager

1. How has the implementation of the TED grant project benefitted the overall system of education for students and families on reservations who received the TED grants (e.g., changes to tribal education Code, expanded authority, enhanced support of federally supported programs and services, etc.), and more specifically the provision of special education services?
2. What are the most significant challenges encountered in the implementation of the TED grants for students with disabilities and how will these challenges be addressed?
3. What do you see as the role and responsibility of the BIE in supporting the effectiveness and positive outcomes of your TED grant priorities?
4. What recommendations can you provide to assist tribes who are committed to exercising greater authority and autonomy for the education of Indian children on Indian lands and addressing the provision of special education services?

11:30 AM Board Reflection – the Board will discuss/comment on the presenter's report.

12:00 PM Lunch (1 hour)

1:00 PM Public Commenting Session - (15 minutes) - join by webinar or dial in using your phone. Use the online meeting access information is found on page 1 of this agenda.



Bureau of Indian Education Advisory Board for Exceptional Children, March 9-10, 2022 Virtual meeting

1:15 - 3:30 PM BIE Special Education Program - Dr. Eugene Thompson, Supv. Educ. Specialist

1. **Present the preliminary FFY2020-2025 State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) indicator data to the Board as stakeholders.** Each state, including the BIE, develops a SPP/APR that evaluates the state's efforts to implement the requirements and purposes of the IDEA and describes how the state will improve its implementation. SPP/APRs include indicators that measure child and family outcomes and other indicators that measure compliance with the requirements of IDEA. A state is required to submit a SPP at least every six years. For each year, states must report against the targets in its SPP in an annual performance report. Stakeholder involvement is a crucial role in reviewing data and providing input on decisions to establish targets.
2. Provide any other comments, recommendations, ideas topics the Board should be aware of.

2:30 PM Break (15 minutes)

3:30 PM Board Reflection – the Board will discuss/comment on the presenter's report.

4:00 PM Recess

DAY 2 - Thursday, March 10, 2022, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM (MST)

8:00 AM BIE Advisory Board meeting - Board Chairperson and DFO

- Welcome, Call to Order & Roll Call - Norman Shawanokasic, Chairperson
- Webinar Logistics, Meeting Purpose, IDEA and FACA Regulations
- Old Business
- New Business

8:30 AM BIE Special Education Program – Dr. Eugene Thompson, Supv. Education Specialist

1. Coordination of Services Plan - review the current plan, purpose of the plan, if revisions have occurred provide an update.
2. Do you have any questions about the 2021 annual reports? Any ideas? What are your thoughts?

9:30 AM Board Reflection – the Board will discuss/comment on the presenter's report.

10:00 AM Break (15 minutes)



Bureau of Indian Education Advisory Board for Exceptional Children, March 9-10, 2022 Virtual meeting

10:15 AM Public Commenting Session - (15 minutes) - join by webinar or dial in using your phone. Use the online meeting access information is found on page 1 of this agenda.

10:30 AM Board worktime - work on priorities and work on next meeting agenda and logistics.

12:00 PM Lunch (1 hour)

1:00 PM Public Commenting Session - (15 minutes) - join by webinar or dial in using your phone. Use the online meeting access information is found on page 1 of this agenda.

1:15 - 4:00 Board worktime - work on priorities and work on next meeting agenda and logistics.

2:15 PM Break (15 minutes)

4:00 PM Adjourn

Public Comments

Request for Public Comments: The BIE Advisory Board is seeking comments from the public regarding the concerns, issues to improve the special education program for students with disabilities within the BIE school system. Three-minutes will be provided for each commenter. When commenting provide your name, the agency you represent, and your city and state. Please provide as much information as possible about your topic. To ensure confidentiality refrain from using student or individual names. Written statements being submitted in response to the agenda announced in this notice must be received by the DFO at least five calendar days prior to the first day of the meeting date.

Public Comments can also be sent to the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) at any time using:

Email: Jennifer.davis@indianaffairs.gov; or FAX: (602) 265-0293 Attention: Jennifer Davis, DFO; or U.S. Postal or Hand Delivered to: Bureau of Indian Education, Attention: Jennifer Davis, DFO, 2600 N. Central Ave., 12th Floor, Suite 250, Phoenix, AZ 85004

Questions about the BIE Advisory Board: Contact: Jennifer Davis, Designated Federal Officer (DFO)
Office: (602) 240-8597 | **Mobile:** (202) 860-7845 | **FAX:** (602) 265-0293 | **Email:** jennifer.davis@bie.edu