



CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE

COMMISSION ON AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE AFFAIRS

**Topic:** Monthly Meeting

**Date/Time:** Wednesday, October 12, 2022, at 5:00 pm

**Location:** Zoom

**Contact:** Terry Sloan, Liaison

**MEMBERS**

**Rebecca Riley (Chair)**  
**Kyle Tapaha (Co-Chair)**  
**Thelma Antonio (Secretary)**  
**Kim Benally**  
**Kimberly Gleason**  
**Jimmy Secatero**

**Lorenzo Jim**  
**Marissa Naranjo**  
**Raven Begay**  
**Ron Looking-Elk**

**Minutes**

**1. Call to Order**

**a. Roll Call/Establish Quorum**

Absent: Jimmy Secatero, Thelma Antonio, Lorenzo Jim, and Raven Begay.

**b. Invocation** by Commission Chair, Rebecca Riley.

**2. Approval of meeting agenda.**

Edits: add Commission Chair Riley to the list for today's meeting which will be her last meeting; add Phillip Farson, Senior Director of Indian Education, Albuquerque Public Schools, to the guest speaker list; and add Mayane Barudin to the public comment section.

Motion to approve agenda made by Commissioner Kim Gleason; Commissioner Looking-Elk seconded the motion; none opposed; motion approved.

**3. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve by Co-chair Tapaha; seconded by Commissioner Naranjo; none opposed; one abstained; motion approved.

**4. New Business**

**a. Phil Farson, Senior Director of Indian Education, Albuquerque Public Schools**

Mr. Farson gave an update on the search for a new director. Commission Chair Riley and Co-Chair Tapaha attended the Fall tribal leaders summit, a consultation event held twice a year in the Spring and the Fall collaborations with organizations, commissions, and tribes for Native American students. As of July, he is no longer the Interim Director. Mr. Thorn Begay was hired as an instructional manager coming from the NACA charter school. New initiatives have been added to the language program and indigenization at an elementary school in Albuquerque.

With a brief presentation the Tribal Education Status Report (TESR) covers: 1) student achievement; 2) school safety; 3) graduation rates; 4) attendance; 5) parent and community

involvement; 6) education programs targeting tribal students; 7) financial reports; 8) current status of federal Indian education policies and procedures; 9) school district initiatives to decrease the number of student dropouts and increase attendance; 10) use of variable calendars; 11) school district consultations with district Indian education committees, school-site parent advisory councils and tribal, municipal, and Indian organizations; 12) best practice for indigenous research and evaluation measures, plus results for effective curricula for tribal students; and 13) access to native language programs.

Each of the 13 areas of the TESR has 6 required sections and must use the precise language provided: 1) objective; 2) background; 3) methods; 4) results; 5) conclusion; and 6) action plan. In addition to the requirements is an executive summary at the beginning and a conclusion at the end. He has worked with a researcher in APS to compile data.

- 1.8% American Indian/Alaskan Native
- 3,800 AI/AN students (5.2% of the total student population)
- 7,461 (about 10.2%) students identified as AI/AN (tribal affiliation) including charters

The findings addressed minority students performing better on standardized tests and improved on attendance and behavior when taught by a same-race teacher.

According to the census bureau, there is a lack of AI/AN teachers due to the lack of AI/AN college graduates. 14.5% of the AI/AN population earned a bachelor's degree compared with 31.3% overall population which stems from racial and ethnic differences in college completion, especially when students are not college ready and lack a STEM curriculum. Addressing the lack of Native educators, an initiative will accelerate college and career readiness and close the NA staffing gap. APS received a \$200,000 NMPED grant to hire (AI/AN) one teacher and one coordinator, plus involve professional development and enrichment opportunities. Efforts to provide STEM education in a manner that the AI/AN students can gravitate to will be a process to be introduced to improve student's understanding.

The second initiative is Accelerating Heritage Language and Culture Learning with the following components: Dine language and culture grants; language demonstration immersion program at Tres Volcanes Community Collaborative K-8; creating a mentor/apprenticeship center; create district wide growth and sustainability heritage language plans for K-12; grants ranging from \$50,000 - \$200,000; 5 language teachers; and 1 practicum coordinator. The challenge is obtaining AI/AN candidates for these positions.

At a camp students receive grounding in heritage and culture.

Commissioner Looking-Elk is interested in how to retain students in the APS system, including indigenization of learning environments, and what are the short-term plans. Programs in APS learn recognition in three areas: community service, development knowledge in culture, and proficiency in language. One grant will help revise the growth of the K-12 framework and to monitor that students are getting the help they need.

Commissioner Tapaha would like to work with the parent committee and appreciates his response to his attendance to the meeting.

Commissioner Riley congratulates Mr. Farson on his position. 49% of children ages 3 to 4 are not in school, almost 50% native students in NM are not in any supportive services to prepare them for school and are already at a disadvantage going into kindergarten. Between kindergarten and high school there are experiences that prevent positive forward movement in their education pathway (ref. National data book 2022, Kid Count data book 2021). The data shows how students are

far in education. Data is becoming more accurate and captures student needs. Partnering and supporting childhood education even before they enter school is a concern and need that must be pursued. Native teacher shortage is a reality and current AI/AN teachers are doing double duty in trying to support students.

Farson: Warlance Chee and another group are developing a language program. A comprehensive plan is underway for early childhood education with a number of schools in the city for a language nest for not only Navajo, but also for Keres and other language groups and to develop a masterplan for centers for birth to kindergarten. The commission is welcomed to provide input for the master plan. They are also working with the center of Native American health and looking at the barriers of Native students going into health fields which primarily is the STEM curriculum. They would like to set up a system where students have a positive education pathway.

#### b. Public Comment

**Mayane Barudin**, Santo Domingo, background in Energy and Environmental Science: Public Regulation Commission has transitioned from an elected position to an appointed position with a nominating committee searching for members. She is applying and seeking endorsement to the commission for a position on the PRC board. She has worked on the community solar act in New Mexico and energy policy and works with organizations in creating legislation.

PRC oversees monopoly utilities, PNM, El Paso Electricity, and Excel Energy regarding rates and logistics, and oversees the implementation of the transition act. Telecommunication and transportation are also other components it oversees. The commission comprises seven members. Selected out of 24 candidates for interviews and requests for an endorsement.

The question was asked about reporting back to the communities: Mayane stated that there will be more community engagement through venues and obtaining input from communities and tribal voices.

Chair Riley indicated that **a letter of support will require a vote from the commission.** Commissioner Looking-Elk motions for a letter of support from the commission members. Clarification will be sought as to the protocol in approving such support. **Co-chair Tapaha and Dawn will contact her with the outcome.**

#### Discussion and Updates

- c. Transition process: Nomination for Chairperson, Co-chair, and Secretary  
Commission members selection for Co-chair and Secretary by sending nominations to Dawn.

Nominations for Chair: Kyle Tapaha and Marissa Naranjo.  
Marissa Naranjo declines the nomination.  
Kyle Tapaha accepts nomination.

Voting: Kyle Tapaha  
Commissioners Gleason, Benally, Looking-Elk, Naranjo, Riley, Tapaha.  
Kyle Tapaha is elected as Chair of the Commission.

Nominations for Co-chair: Antonio, but not present; Benally, respectfully declines the nomination. **This will be tabled for the next meeting** and to obtain Antonio's response.

Nominations for Secretary: Looking-Elk, respectfully declines the nomination; Benally would like to think about it and table it until the next meeting, and Naranjo did not respond, therefore **it will be tabled and addressed at the next meeting.**

Commissioner Benally asked what the position entails. Chair Riley explains, documenting minutes, assists Chair and Co-chair with agenda, assists with logistics, and would assume leadership when Chair and Co-chair are absent from a commission meeting.

**Commissioners agreed to table the Co-chair and Secretary positions until the next meeting.**

**d. Review and Approve Report to Mayor**

Commissioners reviewed and edited the report to the mayor. The report captures commission activities, strategic plan, key findings, and accomplishments. Content of the report contains meetings, updated mission/vision/values, strategic plan, working through the pandemic, partnering with other organizations, meeting attendance to civic engagement, working on the 4H park issue, and commissioner recommendations. It is not finalized and is recommended for review and to add to areas of Native homelessness and the development of the Native Arts Center, as well as other highlights of the efforts of the commission.

The last time the mayor received a report from the commission was from the year 2002.

Commissioner Looking-Elk shared that the commission should spend more time on the report to include other areas such as the meeting that 1<sup>st</sup> Nations sponsored regarding transgender and voting rights, as well as other issues that the commission seeks involvement.

Commissioner Tapaha will provide detailed information on organizational meetings and work he attended that are important to support and create partnerships.

Commissioner Gleason will include information on the 2023/2024 Native Performing Arts Center and seek the support needed.

Commissioner Benally will include recommendations, such as a back-up plan if our relatives do not take advantage of the services of the Gateway Center.

Commissioner Naranjo has left the meeting.

Commissioner Chair Riley announced it is 6:40 pm and quorum is lost, no decisions will be made to approve on action items, but the meeting will resume according to the agenda.

Commissioner Riley suggests a date to submit input to be the end of the month. She will also be available for the meeting with the mayor. Dr. Lee (former commissioner) would also like to be informed of the meeting.

**(A) Commission Administrative Matters**

- a. *CABQ Native American Affairs Liaison, Terry Sloan, CABQ Intergovernmental Tribal Liaison and Dawn Begay, Native American Affairs Coordinator* report updates.

**Dawn**

- Indigenous Peoples Day – National League of Cities conducted and working on a guidebook Road Map to repair and to address the history of harm to Indigenous Peoples.
- 2022 Indigenous Housing Justice Summit, 188 people registered, collaborative effort
  - UNM Architecture and Planning students design concepts and modernization
  - City of Albuquerque Five-Year Consolidated Plan for funding for housing
  - Office of Equity & Inclusion

- \_\_\_ Guest speaker, Verna Teller
  - \_\_\_ Keynote speaker, Navajo Nation
  - \_\_\_ Panel discussion by Caroline LaPorte, Indigenous Safe Housing and Terry Sloan, COA Intergovernmental Tribal Liaison
  - \_\_\_ Continuum of Care (HMIS Data, Management, and Reporting for Federal Funding)
  - \_\_\_ HUD Southwest Office of Native American funding with funding opportunities for housing programs
  - \_\_\_ Silent No More (Housing Inequities Contribution to the Issues of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives)
  - \_\_\_ Domestic Violence on the Navajo Nation by Lorena Halwood
  - \_\_\_ Municipal Response to Native Americans Experiencing Homelessness
  - \_\_\_ Manuelito Community Regeneration (Kin Hozhoni) by Percy Anderson
  - \_\_\_ Closing the Racial Wealth Gap through Homeownership presentation
- Guidebook: City of Albuquerque Housing and Entrepreneurship Needs Assessment
    - 55,000 people in the metro area
    - 40% own homes
    - Understanding equity in housing/businesses and closing the gaps for Black and Indigenous Communities
    - Assessment centered around housing and businesses - what would it look like
  - Save the Date for Indigenous Life Celebration & Youth Powwow scheduled for November 5<sup>th</sup> at the Albuquerque Convention Center from 9 am – 3 pm (planning in process)
  - Updated website with events and information such as housing assessments.

Commissioner Co-chair Tapaha met with a representative of the mayor's office. The mayor is anticipating meeting with the commission. Next commission meeting is November 9<sup>th</sup>. If five or more commissioners attend, an official meeting must be scheduled to present for an official meeting, otherwise a special meeting can be called. It would be a closed meeting. For special meetings it is a 24-hour notice. Dr. Lee was interested in attending. Terry stated that he is welcomed to attend and can even represent the Education sector he previously held until the position is filled.

#### Terry

Mayor still wants to meet with the commission, if there is a quorum then a special meeting will be called with time to send a notification. He is working with Commissioner Gleason on a Native film festival and searching for locations to have the event, plus scheduling a date. The event would be free admission to the public.

Terry talked to Santa Ana Governor about a representative to join the commission. The Governor will look into it.

#### Commission Sector Reports and Updates

- i. **Government** – VACANT
- ii. **Education** – Commissioner Lee  
No update
- iii. **Culture** – Commissioner Jim

No update

**iv. Health – Commissioner Riley**

Chair Riley received a flyer from NACA for openings with its organization and will share the information.

She gave appreciation for the entire board’s support while serving as Chair and the effort they made despite the challenges with COVID and the protocols that followed. She wishes everyone encouragement and that it was a good experience in the leadership role and relayed the importance of continuing to advocate for the on-going issues.

**v. Workforce/Employment – Commissioner Raven Begay**

No Update

**vi. Environment— Commissioner Naranjo**

No Updates

**vii. At Large—Commissioner Gleason**

Native Women Lead having a retreat and community meeting for Native Arts Performance Center will be scheduled and all commissioners are invited to attend.

**At Large—Co-chair Tapaha**

Commissioner Co-chair Tapaha stated that AIO had an event at Tiguex park for Indigenous Day with other partners (NACA, NAVA, Family and Indigenous Vibe) and other outreach organizations joined the Get Out the Vote and behavioral health outreach. The National Crisis Line is available by dialing 988 for assistance from health professionals. There will be a UNM alumni tailgate event before the game. Co-chair Tapaha’s goal is to bring more people, especially the young people to become partners, as well as the organizations that support these events.


Announcement to Save the date on October 14<sup>th</sup> for NACA’s 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Feast Day.

**Adjournment at approximately 7:20 pm**

**Next CAIANA Meeting: Wednesday, November 9, 2022 @ 5:00 PM – 7:30 PM**

\*Action items highlighted in bold

  
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**Approved by Kyle Tapaha, Commissioner Chair**

  
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**Date**