

COLSTRIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
INDIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 30, 2019, 5:30 PM
CENTRAL BOARD ROOM

ATTENDANCE: Berta Conner, JD OldMouse, Norma Bixby, Susan Sharkey, Kathy LaDuke, Joanne Schrupp, Michelle Petersen, Misty Pipe, Deb Peters, Park Timber, Sheri Timber

CPS District Clerk Joanne Schrupp presented the 2020 Impact Aid application information packet. She explained the purpose of Impact Aid. In this school district, Impact Aid is considered an Indian program because Colstrip receives funding for students residing on Indian trust lands. It is actually a broader program providing funding from the federal government to school districts impacted by federal land for which the district does not receive property taxes; primarily military bases and low-income housing. Impact Aid cannot be used by state governments to reduce their support of public schools. Impact Aid can be utilized for any purpose that school district general funds are used for so it is a very flexible program. Impact Aid payments are higher for special education students and a commensurate portion of Impact Aid funding must be used for special education purposes. Colstrip Schools uses its Impact Aid for an assortment of programs and purposes that support the general funds including the special education director, the home-school liaison, facility support, drug/alcohol awareness programs, swimming pool costs, utilities, American Indian Week activities, and canine searches. Colstrip Schools submits two Impact Aid applications annually; one for the elementary district and one for the high school district. The application deadline is January 31st annually. The Board of Trustees will review the application information at its February 11th meeting. Comments are welcome at that meeting.

Tribal Ed director Norma Bixby expressed hope that the recently elected tribal council will be more education-focused. OPI has initiated meetings with tribal councils starting in Polson to foster greater working relationships and knowledge of the issues. Attendance is a major issue.

Curriculum Director Susan Sharkey presented the 2017-18 Colstrip SD19 Indian Education Report. It is posted on the school website and hard copies were available. It contains a list of activities throughout the year that support IEFA, demographic background, student activity involvement, MAP testing results (K-10) in reading, math, language use and science, and attendance data.

Joanne, Susan, and Norma then reviewed the differences between JOM (Johnson O'Malley), Title VI (IEFA), and Impact Aid including how and why different students are eligible for one and not the others. Questions were answered about the programs.

There will be a JOM parent committee meeting on Wednesday, February 6th, in Colstrip's Central Board room (basement of FBMS) at 5:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.