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Senator Jim Bradford, Chair

Second Meeting  
2014 Interim

Fort Randall Casino  
Pickstown, South Dakota

**Monday, September 29, 2014**

The second meeting of the State-Tribal Relations Committee for 2014 was called to order by Senator Jim Bradford at 9:00 a.m. in the small conference room at the Fort Randall Casino in Pickstown, SD.

A quorum was determined with the following members answering the roll call: Senators Jim Bradford, Chuck Jones, and Billie Sutton; Representatives Troy Heinert, Kevin Killer, Lee Qualm, and Mike Verchio. Members excused: Representative Elizabeth May and Senators Ernie Otten and Craig Tieszen.

Staff members present were Amanda Reiss, Senior Legislative Attorney; and Stephanie Gruba, Fiscal Analyst.

*NOTE: For purpose of continuity, the following minutes are not necessarily in chronological order. Also, all referenced documents distributed at the meeting are attached to the original minutes on file in the Legislative Research Council (LRC).*

An opening prayer was offered by Senator Jim Bradford, Committee Chair.

**REPRESENTATIVE VERCHIO MOVED, SECONDED BY SENATOR SUTTON, THAT THE MINUTES FROM MAY 23, 2014 MEETING BE APPROVED. The motion prevailed on a voice vote.**

**SENATOR SUTTON MOVED, SECONDED BY REPRESENTATIVE HEINERT, THAT THE ELECTION FOR VICE-CHAIR BE POSTPONED TO LATER IN THE AGENDA. The motion prevailed on a voice vote.**

**Andes Central School District**

Superintendent Debera Lucas of the Andes Central School District discussed many of the considerations that she has had to address in her two years as the superintendent of the 350 student district in order to make the district as successful as possible. Superintendent Lucas has instituted numerous measures aimed at addressing the physical, mental, emotional and cultural needs of the students throughout the year. To meet the physical needs of her students, she has sought out grants to increase physical education and ensure that fresh fruits and vegetables are available, her school operates a gardening project and a summer food service serving 60 meals per day to provide healthy food choices, and she has decided to participate in a community eligibility provision because a large percentage of the student population is eligible for SNAP benefits, which saves between \$120 and \$150 dollars per student on lunches.

To address the mental and emotional needs of her students, Superintendent Lucas has partnered with the HeadStart program in the area, has expanded the Jobs for America's Graduates program in the district and also holds a weekly early dismissal which allows her to unify the teachers and ensure that issues are addressed, gives students free access to all school events, and has added new security systems in the schools. Superintendent Lucas has also addressed the cultural needs that a district comprised of 80-85% of Native American students requires including establishing a 5 member advisory committee, flying the Yankton Sioux Tribe Flag along with the South Dakota and United States flags, added additional home-school coordinators, required mandatory drug and alcohol screening for all athletes, and established a Native American club. Although she has already accomplished many successes, Superintendent Lucas still believes there is much work to be done and encouraged the committee to work towards increasing cooperation and providing additional support for Indian education, providing more funding and supporting legislation that provides additional funding in the area of education, and also with economic development in the area. She indicated that the district is seeing very few applicants for open teaching positions. (*Handout #1*)

### **Wagner Boys and Girls Club**

Pat Breen, Executive Director of the Wagner Boys and Girls Club, spoke with the committee about this program and some of the work that has been accomplished in the Wagner area. Mr. Breen indicated that the program has been in place since 1998 and serves approximately 1,000 children per year. The program provides a low cost child care option for families, \$10 per year for 1 child or \$20 for two or more children, and provides a safe place for children to stay after school. The facilities operate twenty-eight athletic programs throughout the year, promote academic success for all children in the program, with a certified teacher available at all times, and provide a daily snack for the children. The Wagner Boys and Girls Club is fully self-supported with members of the community providing much of the funding, additionally the Club seeks out grant funding, and though the Wagner Club has been successful, additional funding is always needed, especially with additional expenses including vehicles for transporting the students.

Mr. Breen discussed the success of the program in the Wagner area. The Club is one of the only options for after school care and activities and gives the students a sense of belonging. Mr. Breen indicated that there are very few behavioral issues and that the children want to attend the program and have begun to stay together as a positive group, encouraging each other to remain in school and seek positive outcomes. Since the Club has been serving the community, Wagner has seen a decrease in reckless and problematic behaviors and has seen an increase in pride in themselves and the community along with a decrease in the cultural divide that was previously noticed in the area. Overall, Mr. Breen said that there has been a noticeable return on the dollar in the Wagner area and he is working to ensure that the Club remains an active program in the community. He mentioned that the Club has grant funding lined up for approximately two more years, but that funding is never guaranteed and that the Club would like to expand programs and services to more communities in the area with additional funding. (*Handouts #2, #3, #4, and #5*)

### **Public Testimony**

The committee provided an opportunity for public testimony.

### **Election of Vice Chair**

**SENATOR SUTTON MOVED, SECONDED BY REPRESENTATIVE HEINERT, THAT THE NOMINATIONS OF REPRESENTATIVE LEE QUALM AND REPRESENTATIVE HEINERT FOR VICE-CHAIR BE CARRIED OVER FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING. The motion prevailed on a voice vote.**

Representative Heinert was elected vice-chair by secret ballot.

### **Committee Discussion**

The next meeting date was set for December 1, 2014, in Pierre, SD.

**REPRESENTATIVE QUALM MOVED, SECONDED BY SENATOR SUTTON, THAT THE COMMITTEE SUBMIT INQUIRY ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE SEARCH FOR A SECRETARY OF TRIBAL RELATIONS TO REPLACE J.R. LAPLANTE AND TO REQUEST THAT A COMMITTEE MEMBER PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCESS. The motion prevailed by a voice vote.**

### **Adjournment**

**REPRESENTATIVE QUALM MOVED, SECONDED BY SENATOR JONES, TO ADJOURN. The motion prevailed unanimously on a voice vote.**

The committee adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

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