



DEPARTMENT OF DINÉ EDUCATION THE NAVAJO NATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Navajo Nation Vice President, Rex Lee Jim, Exhort Use of Information Technology at Conference: Grant Schools Meet with Department of Dine Education and the Bureau of Indian Education

Window Rock, Arizona, September 3, 2013. Department of Diné Education convened an informational conference meeting with Grant Schools, including School Board Members and Grant School Principals and Administrators. Over 150 participants attended the one-day conference which was held Friday, August 30th, 2013, at the Wingate High School Gymnasium from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Conference attendees included Navajo Nation Board of Education members: Jimmie C. Begay, President; Dr. Bernadette Todacheene and Gloria Johns, member. Vice President Rex Lee Jim was on hand and including Andrew Tah, the Navajo Nation Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Charles M. Roessel, Acting BIE Director, was also in attendance and sitting at the front table next to the podium. As participants arrived to the conference, Department of Diné Education staffs distributed to registered participants conference packets that contained memos, flow charts, Resolutions, and Diné Language Standards. Documents not distributed were presented to the audience using the power point presentation.

The emcee was provided by Darrick Franklin, Senior Education Specialist. At the beginning of the conference and dressed in standard military uniform, the Wingate High School ROTC Program marched across the stage in single line posting the colors of the United States Flag, the New Mexico Flag and the Navajo Nation Flag. As show of respect for the flag, the audience remained standing during the posting of the colors.

Immediately after the welcome addresses, Mr. Andrew Tah presented update information on the feasibility study. He stated: "With all the Resources that are being reduced, we all have to share some of the costs, time, and staffs, to discuss some of these needs to work with each other. That is the way to work together. Let's work together. On this way, we can open a lot of educational opportunities for our children." In a dual presentation, Dr. Charles Roessel and Mr. Andrew Tah informed the audience of the status of the NNDODE and BIE partnership activities and projects.

In another joint-team presentation, Darrick Franklin, Senior Education Specialist, and Dr. John McIntosh, Associate Superintendent of BIE School Improvement, presented update information on the "Turn Around Project". The "Turn Around Project" includes several key components, such as:

- UDP – Using Date Process in the "Turn Around Project" Collaboration which as eloquently presented by Dr. Kalvin White, Program Manager ;
- Enhancement Funds was presented by Dr. Charles Roessel; and

-More-

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- Elements of an Effective School, was presented by Dr. John McIntosh.

Right before noon, the Bureau of Indian Education took over the podium with four update reports, which included:

- Administrative Cost Funds and ISEP Funds a presentation by David Talayumptewa, BIE Assistant Deputy Director of Administration;
- AYP Determination for Federally Funded Schools for 2013-2014 by Dr. John McIntosh;
- Facilities Update Report by Victor Puente, BIE Facilities Management, Fort Defiance Agency; and
- Professional Development Calendar was presented by Jacqueline Wade, Associate Superintendent BIE Navajo Region.

In the Afternoon when the conference reconvened, Vice President Rex Lee Jim entered the gymnasium with executive bodyguards at his side. Vice President addressed the audience emphasizing that the Sovereignty in Education Act was approved by the Navajo Nation Council. He further stressed that:

“We have the authority to educate our children. The Navajo Nation needs to take the lead authority on our education. We need to behave like a sovereign Nation. We need to accredit our own schools. We need to certify our own teachers and school administrators. We need our own curriculum. This already states in the Navajo Nation Sovereignty in Education Act.”

Toward the end of his address, Vice President Jim spoke on the importance and use of technology in classrooms on the Navajo Nation and that schools on the Navajo Nation should take advantage of information technology, like computers and Ipads in schools. The conference concluded with an update report from Angela Barney-Nez, Executive Director of the Diné Bi Ołta School Board Association.

For additional information on the Information Conference, contact Mr. Victor Benally and Mr. Darrick Franklin at (928) 871-7466.

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