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Health, Education, and Human Services Committee discusses report from Rough Rock Community School and academic program enhancements

WINDOW ROCK – On Wednesday, the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee discussed a report from the Rough Rock Community School regarding efforts to improve their Diné language programs and to establish a new horsemanship program.

The Rough Rock Community School is a tribally controlled school, offering a residential program for students from kindergarten through high school.

“It is my hope and dream to improve services at Rough Rock Community School. There are three areas I would like to come before the council,” said RRCS executive director Elvira Largie. “I would like for the HEHSC to sponsor a resolution which would exempt school educational programs from the sequestration and possibly secure funds from the Navajo Nation to enhance programs.”

Largie also asked for the HEHSC’s support in acquiring permanent funding for the enhancement of their Diné Studies, residential, and horsemanship programs.

HEHSC chair Council Delegate Jonathan Hale (Oak Springs, St. Michaels) briefly explained the budget and fiduciary process and expressed support for of the school’s effort to teach the children the significance of horsemanship and its role in Navajo culture.

“Our school’s interest in horsemanship is greatly supported. These are animals that cherish the soul and strengthen the resiliency to any sorrow or depression,” said Delegate Hale.

Largie added that RRCS currently serves 98 students and have experienced a 23% decrease in their budget since 2010.

“You have my support. You should be proud to come from a community where a lot of our Navajo language materials came from,” HEHSC member Council Delegate Joshua Lavar Butler (Tó Nanees Dízi). “The school has done great things for our language and we are always happy to hear of RRSC creativity.”

The HEHSC will vote to accept their report at their next scheduled meeting on Oct. 9.

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