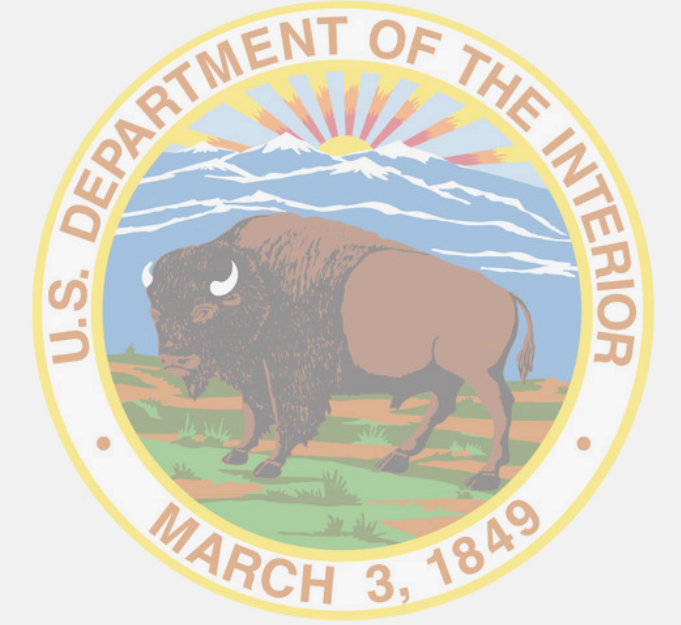


APRIL 3, 2025

NAVAJO PREPARATORY SCHOOL
A TRIBALLY CONTROLLED SCHOOL



Tribal Interior Budget Council EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT



Shawna A. Becenti, Head of School
TIBC Education Subcommittee Member

TRIBAL INTERIOR BUDGET COUNCIL (TIBC)

The Tribal Interior Budget Council (previously the Bureau of Indian Affairs - Tribal Budget Advisory Council) was established in 1999 to facilitate tribal government participation in the planning of the BIA budget and includes two tribal representatives from each of the 12 BIA regions.

The mission of the TIBC is to provide an advisory government-to-government forum and process for Tribes and the Department to develop budgets that allow for the fulfillment of tribes' self-determination, self-governance, sovereignty, and treaty rights and provides sufficient levels of funding to address the needs of Tribes and their tribal citizens.





TRIBAL INTERIOR BUDGET COUNCIL EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS

Co-Chairs (Non-voting):

1. Buster Atteberry, Chairman of Karuk Tribe
2. Juana Dixon, Councilwoman

Voting Members:

1. Kristina Smith, Santa Fe Indian School
2. Shawna Becenti, Navajo Preparatory School
3. Cecilia Firethunder, Oglala Sioux
4. Ryman LeBeau, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe
5. Derrick Leslie, White Mountain Apache
6. Herminia Frias, Pascua Yaqui Tribe
7. Tafuna Tusi, CFO Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders

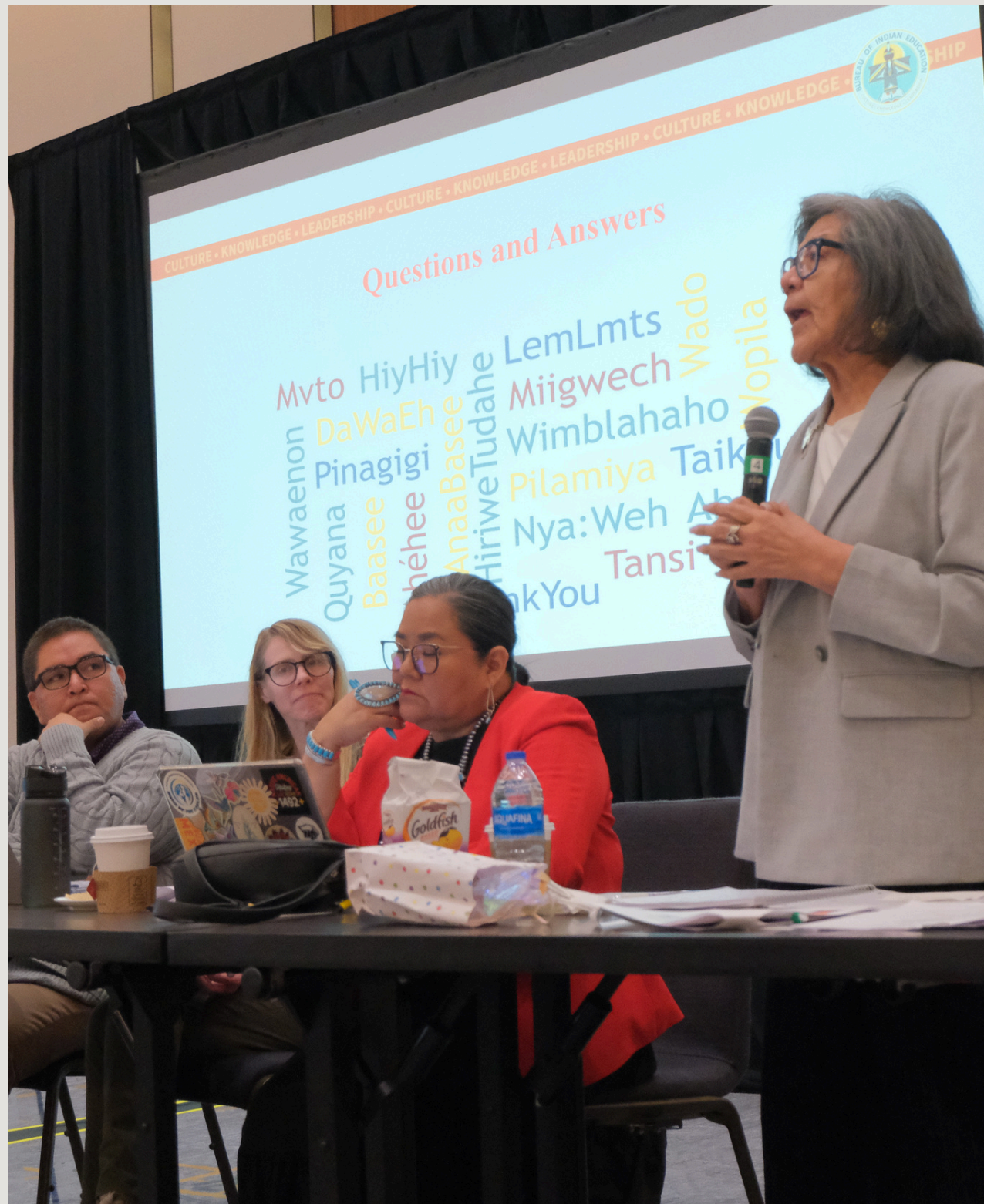
Federal Co-Chairs:

1. Tony Dearman, Director BIE
2. Sharon Pinto, Deputy Director BIE

Federal Member:

1. Vanda Cervantes, BIE

TRIBAL INTERIOR BUDGET COUNCIL EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE



TIBC March 2025

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Bureau of Indian Education Staffing Impacts

The Department of the Interior (DOI) has announced a 40% reduction in force, affecting critical staff across BIE schools, including 27% at Haskell, 23% at SIPI, and 15% in non-school staff regional positions. Despite these cuts, 25 employees were reinstated on March 7th. A 30-day notice has been issued for many affected positions, and the issue of layoffs and the impact on school operations has been discussed. The loss of employees is being felt across the BIE, with the Vera visa program seeing a potential 30% retirement eligibility among remaining staff.

Tribal Consultation and School Choice

Concerns were raised about the expansion of school choice, especially as it pertains to BIE schools. A proposal to extend school choice to BIE schools is being explored, though the lack of a concrete plan or mechanism for implementation remains a key issue. Additionally, the meeting discussed the upcoming tribal consultation regarding the school choice policy and how it could impact schools that are not affiliated with specific tribes.

TRIBAL INTERIOR BUDGET COUNCIL EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE



TIBC March 2025

KEY HIGHLIGHTS CONT.

BIE Schools and Funding:

Continued resolution was approved while at TIBC. FY 2024 funding levels will be continued into the 2025 fiscal year. The committee continued to support forward funding for JOM and Scholarship and ensure the 2024 and 2025 Contract Support Costs are included in the 2026 budget request.

Haskell and SIPI Updates:

Specific updates were shared about Haskell, where the Head Coach position was reinstated, and 35 employees were given termination notices. At SIPI, 17 employees were lost, but 11 were reinstated. However, significant losses in staff have prompted a push for exceptions to be submitted to the administration to ensure that essential positions are protected.

BIA's Commitment to Self-Determination:

Bryan Mercier, Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), emphasized that the current administration is committed to reducing federal bureaucracy and increasing the capacity of tribes to manage their own services. This shift is in line with the Self-Determination Act, which seeks to enable tribes to take over roles previously managed by the federal government.

01

TIBC Education Subcommittee Work Session

This meeting will discuss the Tribal Grant Support Cost funding formula; JOM per pupil funding; Construction and deferred maintenance; and the direction of the BIE under a new administration

02

Tribal Interior Budget Council Resolution #25-001

Asserting Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) Schools are Schools of Choice and Opposing Voucher Program Proposed under BIE through Executive Order

03

Letter of Support

The TIBC Education Subcommittee recommended that the TIBC submit a letter of support to the House and Senate Committee on Appropriations titled “Fiscal Year 2026 Bureau of Indian Education Appropriations and Great American Outdoors Act Reauthorization”

MOTIONS

All recommendations were motioned and approved by the Tribal Interior Budget Council full body.

EXECUTIVE ORDERS & POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON BIE-FUNDED SCHOOLS...

PROPOSED CHANGES TO INDIAN EDUCATION

Project 2025 v. the Returning Education to Our States Act

- Move all Indian education programs to BIE
- Impact Aid – remove all non-student tied funding (i.e. construction) and move remaining programs to DoDEA and Interior
- Block grant Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) funding for LEAs and move to HHS-ACL
- Block grant or eliminate all other Office of Elementary and Secondary Education programs
- Transfer CTE to Labor and the Tribally Controlled Postsecondary CTE Program to BIE
- Transfer Vocational Rehabilitation Grants for Native students to BIE
- All post-secondary programs should be block granted or narrowed to TCUs or HBCUs
- Move all Office of Civil Rights Concerns to DOJ
- Design a Federal Education Savings Account (voucher) option for all BIE students
- Overhaul BIE schools to put parents and children first
- Abolishes the Department of Education and repeals the Department of Education Organization Act and the General Education Provisions Act
- Moves OIE to Interior
 - Native American-Serving Institutions Programs
 - Alaska Native Education Equity Program
 - American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program
 - Indian Education Formula Grants and National Activities
 - Native American and Alaska Native Children in School Program
 - Native Hawaiian Education
 - Special Programs for Indian Children
 - Tribally Controlled Postsecondary Career and Technical Education Program
 - Impact Aid Programs
- Moves Impact Aid to HHS*
- Moves IDEA funding to HHS
- Creation of an Elementary and Secondary Education State Block Grant Program



EO 14210: Implementing the “Department of Government Efficiency” Workforce Optimization Initiative

- Over a two-week period, the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) experienced the loss of 112 employees, with an anticipated additional 30% loss due to retirements. While K-12 schools, which are Title 25 employees, have not been directly affected, further budget and staff cuts to the BIE are expected to result in the closure of schools.

EO 14191: Expanding Educational Freedom and Opportunities for Families

- Tribally Controlled Schools are a "school of choice" for Tribal Nations, and chronic underfunding has limited full realization of TCS. The National Indian Education Association and the Tribal Interior Budget Council have formally opposed Executive Order 14191.

EO 14239: Improving Education Outcomes by Empowering Parents, States, and Communities

- Bureau funded schools may receive Title and grant funding through the Department of Education. The potential closure of the Department of Education could disrupt access to these funds, with no clear direction on oversight and support.

CONCLUSION

It is imperative that Tribally Controlled Schools remain unified and actively engage in educating Congress about their needs. Budget allocations for the BIE are only questioned and can be recommended through the TIBC Education Subcommittee.

Our schools must be at the forefront to advocate for increased funding and resources directly to Congress.



TIBC March 2025

TRIBAL INTERIOR BUDGET COUNCIL EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE



Measurable Impact

The Education Subcommittee continues to submit proposed recommendations to increase funding for ISEP, Transportation, JOM, Construction, Deferred Maintenance, and TCUs.



Collaborative Success

A strong collaboration exists with Oglala TIBC leaders, Santa Fe Indian School, the Department of Diné Education, BIE leadership, NACIE, Tribal Council and all tribal leaders through this committee.



Continued Commitment

Participation in the Tribal Interior Budget Council has grown significantly, reflecting a shared commitment to enhancing the quality of education for all Tribal Nations.

APRIL 3, 2025

TRIBAL INTERIOR BUDGET COUNCIL
EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

THANK YOU

