

**NIHSDA  
Board of Directors Meeting  
October 16-18, 2023**

**Roll Call/Establish Quorum:** Roll call was taken by Teri Stringer. A quorum was established.

**Call to Order:** Treasurer, Jenny Oatman, called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. MST.

PRESENT	ABSENT NOTIFIED	ABSENT NOT NOTIFIED
President – Melissa Harris President Elect – Andrea Pesina Treasurer – Jenny Oatman Zone 1 – Tina Routh Zone 1-Tina Saunooke, Alt. Zone 4–Jayme Trevino Zone 4- Cheryl DuBois, Alt. Zone 5 - Jo Williams Zone 5 – Kathleen Sando, Alt. Zone 6 – Tami Brungard Zone 7 – Stacey Cobb, Alt Zone 8 - Hilary Gourneau, Alt. Zone 9-Mary DuPuis, Alt. Zone 10 - Christa Green	Secretary-Ann Cameron Zone 2- Vanessa Goodthunder Zone 2 - Deborah Thundercloud, Alt. Zone 3- Vonda Pourier Zone 3-Anne Reddy, Alt Zone 7- Crystal Kremensky Zone 8-DeAnn Brown Zone 9 – Debbie Sioux Lee Zone 10 – Kristin Ramstad, Alt.	

**Others Present:** Frances Moore, AWARE Consulting; Kristi Bentkowski and Teri Stringer from Three Feathers Associates; LaVonne Cate, Five Sandoval

Tina Routh opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was reviewed. Tina R. moved to accept the agenda. Christa seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Seat Board Members:**

President Elect: Andrea Pesina  
 Secretary: Ann Cameron  
 Zone 5 Alternate: Kathleen Sando

Jo motioned to approve seating new members, Tina seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Approval of September Minutes:** Jo moved to approve the minutes. Tina seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Approval of September Treasurer’s Report:** Jenny presented the treasurer’s report. Jayme moved to approve the treasurer’s report. Jo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**General Correspondence:**

- Our NIEA resolution accepted on HS eligibility was accepted and will be presented this week.
- Little Free Library-Anthony Cho. They are looking for 4 new places to sponsor. Indigenous Library Program. Hilary, Andrea, Tina R., Mary, and Christa are all interested. (Teri will send these names to Anthony and he will be in touch). Possibly look at Reading is Fundamental grants
- Activity Packets: NIHSDA received a donation of small learning activity packets. The company has requested input on how to make them more culturally appropriate. Tina R., Mary, and Christa volunteered to give input. Teri will send a set out to each board member for them to look at.
- Tina S. shared information on a new device to prevent choking in small children

**NHSA Representative:** Lee's spot is vacant. Kathleen is interested. Jenny and Melissa will remain as reps as well. Tina motioned to approve Jenny, Melissa, and Kathleen as NHSA representatives. Jo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Talking Circle:** Directors shared info about their programs. Topics included construction/facilities, staffing issues, hiring roadblocks, underenrollment, reportable incidents and the process, expansion, competition with the LEA, tribal political upheaval, and combining HS/CC.

**Strategic Planning:** Frances Moore led the board in strategic planning.

#### **December AIAN training:**

- **(Talking Circle)** NIHSDA has been given time at the Dec training to hear from the membership. Discuss the policy agenda/possibly rank topics. Don't call it a "Talking Circle" – that has a specific meaning. Instead use "Listening Session" or "Round Table."
- The board would like to stay an extra day in CA and meet on Friday to finish the strategic planning process

**NIHSDA History:** The Board would like to capture more of NIHSDA's history in a timeline type document. So it is preserved, but also to educate new directors on NIHSDA's role and importance. Interview past directors (Nila, Mavany, Lee, Linda Kills Crow, Verna, Toni)

**AIAN Directors Institute:** The board discussed their desire to organize/develop an institute for AIAN directors (not just new). We could possibly partner with a tribal college/university. Fran was suggested as someone to help organize this.

**HS Connects:** (Study on HS Fam Services) Would like a volunteer from NIHSDA to review their brief. Tami (Jayme and Tina R. also offered)

#### **Conference Planning:**

- June 24-27, 2024 in Billings, MT
- Vacancy in the state collab office but they are on board (Kathy)
- Sessions for non-native programs serving native families
- Invite all Montana HS programs
- Indian Ed for All, OPI to provide training to non-native programs on working with native programs
- TCU Partnerships – highlight these. Ask Jennifer if they want to group our meetings again

- Need overflow hotel
- Northern Cheyenne (Roberta Harris) is the closest to Billings
- Ask Todd if they want to have a tribal consultation
- PI topic ideas (Monday):
  - Behavioral: Conscious Discipline (strategies)/Pyramid Model (Structure)/First Day Learning/Brazelton Touchpoints
  - Emotional Intelligence for staff
  - ACES & Resiliency (for adults) Univ. of Montana
  - Native Childhood Trauma Institute, Megan Rides at the Door
  - Dr. Lisa Loeffler, Ann Bullock, Dawn Yazzie
  - NIEA Blanket Exercise (generational trauma)
- Explore offering a combined registration with NIEA to make it easier for people to register for both
- It Begins with Us: Honoring Our Past, Pursuing Our Future
- Native Olympics
- Entrance protocol: Drums, flags, dancers, etc
- Tuesday Opening Session: Motivational speaker, then the history (founders)
- Have programs send a “team” picture for a slide show
- Wednesday: short general session, only 30 minutes to focus/motivate and recap/reminders
- Give OHS ~15 minutes, maybe on Tuesday for updates
- Thursday: Go until late afternoon, closing lunch/end at 2pm
- Traditional clothing fashion show
- Keep the Zone lunch (Wed). Have a planning meeting for these prior to the conference.
- Bingo night?
- Registration fees stay the same
- Send vendor notice to MT AIAN programs to share

**Adjourn:** Tina R. made the motion to adjourn, Jayme seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned 11:59 pm MST.