



Education Committee 2023 Annual Update to Tribal Membership

January 16, 2024



Mission Statement

Education Committee approved by TCR061110-01

The Mission of the Education Committee is to support the mission of the Education Department in providing the Tribal Community with a nurturing environment that supports all participants in assessing educational opportunities that will assist them in becoming life-long learners.



Committee Members

- Karley Reising, Vice Chairwoman
- Robert Hayward, Committee Member
- Kimberly Shockley, Committee Member
- Darnika Eleazer, Committee Member



Committee Meeting Dates

- 2023
 - January 4
 - January 12
 - January 17 Update to Membership
 - February 9
 - April 13
 - May No Quorum
 - June 11 Golf Tournament
 - June 20
 - July 20
 - August 22
 - September 12 No Quorum
 - October 12 No Quorum
 - November 9
 - December Rescheduled to January at Committees request



Strategic Plan Action Item Assignments

Objective:	Mashantucket Pequots will develop, enhance, and maximize their human potential to establish and achieve personal, community, and professional goals			
Goal:	3.1 Provide educational opportunities across all populations for lifelong learning			
Strategy:	3.1.1 Develop and expand early childhood education offerings			
Outcome:	Increased level of preparedness and success for students transitioning to elementary school			
Activities	Success Measures	Lead	Resource Considerations	Completion Date
3 Feasibility for expanding school system on reservation	Feasibility report completed	Education Dept COS	Education Committee	December 2023

Strategy:	4.2.4 Implement state-wide Eastern Woodland Native American Curriculum			
Outcome:	Curriculum integrated into school systems			
Activities	Success Measures	Lead	Resource Considerations	Completion Date
1 Improve Ledyard-MPTN education relationship	Consistent and respectful communication and collaboration	Chairman Butler Councilor Whipple	SERC Education Committee COS	2023, ongoing



Committee Initiatives

- Welcome New Education & Recreation Department Staff:
 - Jill DeRosa, Assistant Director (June 2023)
 - Wunanittoukwequai Gregoire, Administrative Assistant (Oct 2023)
 - Marissa Morris, Special Education Advocate (Dec 2023)
- Preparing for the next Community Needs Assessment
- Reviewing and Revising the MPTN Scholarship Program Guidelines
- Exploring ways to close the gap in learning within the Tribal Community
- Exploring ways to address truancy concerns with Tribal Students



Committee Initiatives (Continued)

- Relationship building with Mitchell College and exploration of future opportunities
- Working with Legal to deal with issues related to MPTN being payer of last resort
- Continue assisting with development of Pequot specific content in the Connecticut Native American Curriculum
- Enhance relationship between CDC, Department of Education, and Committee
- Planning for the retirement of Coriene Northup
- 2024 Education Golf Tournament Planning
- 2024 MPTN Graduation Ceremony Planning



Future Initiatives

- Obtain approval for the Pequot Language interns/students to receive credit for Pequot Language Classes
- Working on resources/programming to address achievement gap concerns with Tribal youth



Future Initiatives (Continued)

- Strategic planning sessions with all departments serving educational/career programs to the family (Education, CDC, Pequot Academy, Vocational Rehabilitation, Workforce Development)
- Discussions on visiting other Tribal schools (on-going)
- Exploring BIE funding requirements for on reservation schools (on-going)



Committee Events

- 2023 Education Golf Tournament
 - 260 registered players
 - Net proceeds were roughly \$165,918
 - Additional donations for MPTN Tribal Youth
 - 4 Apple Watches and \$3,000 for additional Apple Watches
 - Examples of Past and Present Education Golf Fund Usages
 - Graduation Ceremony
 - Special request for educational opportunities outside of scholarship policy
 - Community Training
 - Language Department Training
 - USET Scholarship Donation



Committee Events (Continued)

- Hosted the 2023 MPTN Graduation Ceremony
 - 82 confirmed graduates for 2023
 - 16 Kindergarten Prep Graduates
 - 11 Elementary School Graduates
 - 16 Middle School Graduates
 - 21 High School Graduates
 - 9 College Graduates (4 Associates, 4 Bachelors, & 1 Masters)
 - 9 Certificates



Education Grievances History

- 2023
 - Total Grievances 8 including 1 carryover from 2022
 - Top Matters: Request to waive fees for failed or withdrawn from classes
 - 1 Closed due to a lack of information and 1 deferred back to the Department of Education
- 2022
 - Total Grievances 2
 - Top Matters: Request to waive fees for failed or withdrawn from classes and request for additional tuition
- 2019-2021
 - Total Grievances 34
 - Top Matters: Request to waive fees for failed classes and reimbursement, request for additional tuition funds , & requests to be grandfathered into old tuition program



Committee Resolutions

- Regular Resolutions (2)
 - Reappointment of Kimberly Shockley
 - Reappointment of Karley Reising
- Executive Resolutions (6)
 - Grievance resolutions are held in executive session and are confidential in nature.