

**The No Child Left Behind School Facilities and Construction Negotiated Rulemaking
Tribal Consultation Meeting – Window Rock, Arizona
Wednesday, June 13, 2011**

Committee members present included Jimmy Begay; Catherine Wright; Monty Roessel; Lester Hudson; Lorraine Zah Bahe; David Talayumtewa; Andrew Tah; Albert Yazzie; and Margie Moran. Also present were Regina Gilbert and Seyi Olubadewo

Summary of audience suggestions regarding changes to the catalog and formula recommendations in the draft report:

General Comments:

- In the introduction, strongly emphasize the uniqueness of the Navajo nation and Native American culture and their contribution to the country. Emphasize the government's treaty with the Navajo nation, and distinguish Native Americans from immigrant or minority populations and programs, with which they are often included. (*Andrew Tah answered that this was already addressed on p. 4 of the draft report, first paragraph*).

Catalog of Facilities (presented by Catherine Wright):

- FMIS trainings not offered at a time that is convenient for administrators. Offer trainings at a more convenient time. Suggest increasing the amount of trainings offered in the summer.
- Why are items on the backlog list for such a long time? Recommend that schools receive a quarterly report on what is the status of the backlog items, possibly from the "Gatekeepers."
- More transparency in budget and spending for new schools. Provide schools with a breakdown of the budget and spending.
- Recommend that schools on the replacement list will not be harmed by the new formulas. Need assurance that the new formulas will not put them back at the end of the line and force them to start over again.
- Provide a CD-ROM to schools of step-by-step instructions for inputting information into FMIS. This CD will supplement face-to-face training and allow schools to have instructions at their fingertips.
- Allow Tribal school boards to have access to FMIS so they can see what their schools are inputting so they can be in a better position to assist the schools.
- Put FMIS on a web-based system so everyone has access to it.
- Update FMIS backlog costs annually and verify accuracy of the costs of the backlogs (backlogs entered at the local level are often changed by those at the regional level).
- Recommend that no more than 10% of available funding be used for administrative costs; suspects that 30-50% is currently used for administrative costs. (*David Talayumtewa answered that 100% of BIE money is sent to schools; none is kept for administrative purposes*).

- Recommend that parents' and community's choice of site for new school be honored.
- Emphasize to grant schools the necessity and rationale for entering information into FMIS
- Consider adding "Geographic Location" as one of the factors in the facilities index. This region (Northern Arizona) is prone to earthquakes and tremors, which can greatly affect the facilities and students' safety. Facilities managers should be aware of this when they assess our schools.

School Replacement and Renovation (Presented by Monty Roessel):

- FMIS can be manipulated by entering many backlogs into the system, which can affect school placement on the replacement list.
- Dorms should be include as part of the construction of new schools.
- Recommend that Indian tribes have project directors on all new construction projects so they will know what is going on when the schools are being built.
- School boards should be included more in the process; recommend they should go to Washington to lobby congress.
- Recommend more transparency in the constraint process; currently 51% of funding is constrained. (*David Talayumptewa answered that only O&M money is constrained; OFMC funds for MI&R and FI&R are not constrained*)
- One participant suggested generally to make sure that the people who make up the ranking committee will be neutral. Another participant suggested putting school board members on the committee because, unlike ELOs and administrators who just follow orders from headquarters, school board members are the most likely to be neutral.
- Recommend going back to ten year school replacement period (rather than 5 year period) since school staff turnover is very high and information is not carried over from one administrator to the next, which causes a great deal of information loss.
- One participant objected to listing first five schools in alphabetical order rather than by priority—there was concern that schools in most dire need may end up at end of alphabetical list, which will harm their chances of school replacement.
- Application process for replacement schools should be an online process-not paper and pencil.

FI&R and MI&R (Presented by Lorraine Zah Bahe and Andrew Tah):

- Include a cost of living increase in the replacement funds since backlogs are often in the system for years and the original cost does not reflect the impact of inflation.
- The government should honor its treaty to protect and educate the children of the Navajo Nation regardless of any formulas the committee has come up with.