

**The NCLB School Facilities and Construction Negotiated Rulemaking  
Tribal Consultation Meetings - Auburn, WA  
Thursday June 16, 2011**

**General Comments:**

- A participant stated that he wanted to see strong language on consequences for the Bureau to ensure this gets done, support is provided, etc. BIA and OFMC should be transparent, and possibly will be. The language: schools “must” and “will”, Bureau “should” and “may”.
- There was a suggestion that these recommendations be adopted as statute or regulations – then there will be consequences for the Bureau. Otherwise, won’t happen.

**Catalog Comments:**

- People aren’t keeping FMIS up to date, slows down the process, costs are wrong, fixed backlogs aren’t removed
- Users take the course, but then don’t use FMIS
- Very important that each school and entity does their own input – they know what is happening at their facility. We get calls, but don’t know full impact. Need for more assistance.
- This Region was without an ELO – acting with 2 people in the office! We didn’t have personnel at the Line Office. Now we have 4 staff, taking interest in understanding the necessity of putting out reminders on FMIS. There had been a lack of push.
- The Regional Facility Manager was asked how it would work here if a school doesn’t have anyone to input their FMIS data. He replied that the backlog list would just sit on Regional Facility Manager’s desk until we can do it, or they would get it to Albuquerque for entry. The Region and ELO wouldn’t know that there is a problem unless the school notified OFMC that they needed help.
- The Regional Facility Manager is now trying to get in contact with everyone, letting them know that he can help. Making it something that ELOs and schools are aware of the need to do this.
- Participants agreed that the recommendation to make FMIS Training available regionally on a regular basis was very important

**MI&R:**

- A participant expressed concern about access to MI&R money for schools on the Replacement School waiting list – it can take 5 years or more to get the school built, but still need MI&R to fix critical problems in the existing school while waiting. *The Committee members clarified that this had been addressed in the new recommendations.*
- A participant stated that the most important word was “transparency”! They felt that, in the past, the squeaky wheel gets help, but not all principals know how to work the system. Make sure the communication is clear!

**FI&R:**

- A participant pointed out a contradiction between the students served under ISEP (services for students who turn 5 by Dec 31), and state policy, which says they have to be 5 by Sept 1. Their school has pre-K service for students between those ages, but they

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were denied that classroom by OFMC! They wanted to make sure this is addressed as an educational need deficiency.

- Participants raised concerns about the problem with approval for a FACE program. There is a loop – can't get the space without the approval, can't get the approval without the space. Clearly a problem with communication between OFMC and BIE. They suggested including a process for FACE program approval as a topic for the agreement to be made between OFMC and BIE
- *The Committee stated that this should be included as part of criteria in inappropriate educational space – p. 43.*
- Participants made a comment about poor communication between OFMC and BIE. *The Committee explained that Tribal members of the Committee wrote letter to the Assistant Secretary about this issue, and were still awaiting a response.*

**Replacement Schools Process:**

- Participants had questions about the priority list. They asked: “what about the other list? We were 1 on the list, then #67, what about now?” They said, “Before you were born, there was a list. Then it was re-ranked, a new list. People are going to want to know what happened if a list is published every 5 years. The process needs to have a way to address that. *Michele Singer suggested that the government create a historical process document – what happened and where we are now? Emerson Eskeets suggested that there may need to be a way to highlight that schools not in top 5 will have to re-apply and applicants will be re-ranked.*
- A participant commented that it would be helpful for the Committee's report to have an Appendix showing schools that have been redone through FI&R and Facility Replacement projects.

**Replacement school formula:**

- A participant stated that they felt accreditation risk deserves more points. Even if not many schools are in that situation, if they were, it would deserve more points. All Tribal schools required to be accredited. State officials and fire officials use different standards. *Jackie Cheek stated that BIE recently did a data call on accreditation, and have a list of accreditations*
- A comment was made by a Committee member that the prioritization sometimes seemed to penalize schools for keeping up to date on fixing backlogs.
- The group had a discussion about the Cultural criteria in the formula. A participant stated that schools should be able to say what they don't have space for, and that lack of space for a FACE program should count. Jerry stated that he felt that, for his school, the whole SCHOOL is a cultural space, and has space needs unique to the role the school plays in its community. For example, his school was designed to catch kids who were dropping out, so to get them back to school, they needed to have a day care for their children. This should count as needed space. *This raised the question of whether this criteria should be stated more broadly to include the needs associated with the unique nature of tribal schools like day care, pre-school, voc-ed? This would need to correlate with what OFMC will actually pay to build.*

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- A participant concluded that the most important factor should still be the condition of the facility and education facility, making sure schools have accurate information into there. FMIS entry is a priority!