

Montana Board of Public Education Executive Summary

Date: November 15-17, 2023

Presentation	Class 7 MOU's
Presenter	Mathew Bell
Position Title	American Indian Culture & Language Coordinator Office of Public Instruction
Overview	This report covers the MOUs for Class 7 licensure for the Crow Nation and Northern Cheyenne Tribe. It will also provide an update on the Class 7 MOUs for: Blackfeet, Chippewa Cree, Fort Belknap, Fort Peck, Confederated Salish and Kootenai, and Little Shell.
Requested Decision(s)	Action Item
Related Issue(s)	Indian Language Preservation; teacher licensure; Class 7 licensure
Recommendation(s)	Approve the MOU for the Crow Nation Class 7 licensure. Approve the MOU for the Northern Cheyenne Tribe Class 7 licensure.





Board of Public Education Meeting
November, 2023

Approval for the following:

1. The Crow (Apsaalooke) Nation Class 7 Memorandum of Understanding
2. The Northern Cheyenne (Tsistsistsas) Tribe Class 7 Memorandum of Understanding

Update on Class 7 MOU's from the following:

- a. Blackfeet (Pikuni)
- b. Chippewa Cree (Annishinabe & Neiyahwahk)
- c. Fort Belknap (Assiniboine & Aaniiih)
- d. Fort Peck (Assiniboine, Lakoda & Dakota)
- e. Confederated Salish & Kootenai (Séliš & Ktnuxa)
- f. Little Shell (Annishinabe/Metis)

Levi Black Eagle from the Crow Tribe is here to present the Crow Nation Class 7 Memorandum of Understanding for Class 7 teachers

Mina Sentinal and Dr. Ramey Growing Thunder from the Northern Cheyenne Tribe will present the Memorandum of Understanding for Class 7 teachers

Mathew Bell, American Indian Culture & Language Coordinator will share updates on the Blackfeet, Chippewa Cree, Fort Belknap, Fort Peck, Confederated Salish & Kootenai, Little Shell Class 7 MOU's



APSAALOOKE NATION DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. Box 159 Crow Agency, Mt. 59022 (406)679-1102

Loretta Three Irons - Director
Gary H. Dawes - Higher Ed. Coordinator Alberta Wall - AVT-DE Coordinator
Larry Blacksmith - J.O.M. Coordinator



"Education is your most powerful weapon..."
Alavchiahhuush (Plenty Coup)

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Apsáalooke (Crow) Nation in conjunction with the Apsáalooke Nation Department of Education and the Montana Office of Public Instruction (Mt OPI).

WHERE AS – Administrative rules of Montana (ARM) 10.57.436(2) states: "The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall issue a Class 7 license based upon verification by the authorized representative of a Tribal government, that has a memorandum of understanding with the Superintendent of Public Instruction, that the applicant has met tribal standards for competency and fluency as a requisite for teaching that language and culture ..."; and

WHERE AS – The Crow (Apsáalooke) Nation wishes to have Class 7 American Indian Language and Culture specialists as allowed by ARM 10.57.436, the undersigned hereby agrees that the Apsáalooke Nation will submit for approval a Tribal Legislative document that will include the following.


1. Cultural knowledge – oral and written, personal character, and other criteria that will qualify a person to be a specialist in the language and culture of the Apsáalooke Nation.
2. The process of certification and recertification and the requirements for professional development for renewal of the Class 7 certificate and licensure. The approval and verification of the renewal units' documents submitted for renewal.
3. The name and position of the persons approved as the tribe's authorized representatives to make formal written recommendations on the Mt OPI education licensure form for application of a Class 7 Certificate.

THEREFORE – The Apsáalooke Nation understands and agrees that this MOU will be reviewed at least every five (5) years and may be renewed or amended as agreed to by the entities named herein. If there is no action taken, this MOU will automatically be renewed unless terminated by a written notice provided at least thirty (30) days prior to termination by either of the entities named herein.

If the persons named as the authorized representative to make recommendations to the Mt OPI for Class 7 licensure is no longer available, the Apsáalooke Nation understands there will be no Class 7 licenses approved until a replacement is named and documented with both the Mt OPI and Crow Tribe

New information provided regarding this existing MOU will be considered an addendum and must be signed and submitted to Mt OPI by the Apsáalooke Nation Chair in conjunction with the Apsáalooke Nation Department of Education.

All provisions mentioned in this document are hereby agreed to on this 15th day of June, 2023.


Apsáalooke Nation Chair


Superintendent of Public Instruction



EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE APSÁALOOKE NATION

Post Office Box 159 Crow Agency, Montana 59022

Ph. 406-679-6567

Frank White Clay, Chairman

Lawrence DeCrane, Vice Chairman

Levi Black Eagle, Secretary

Channis Whiteman, Vice Secretary

Bekki Flanagan, Licensing Specialist
Montana Office of Public Instruction
PO Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620-2501

Dear Ms. Flanagan,

This is an official notice to your office on the signature authority for the Class 7 Licensure for the Crow Tribe.

Loretta Three Irons, Crow Tribe Education Director, will be the official designee to sign Class 7 Licensure Applications.

If you have any questions contact Loretta Three Irons at loretta.threeirons@crow-nsn.gov
Work phone 406-629-0169.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frank White Clay".

Frank White Clay
Chairman of the Crow Tribe

Cc: Lorri Weiss
Licensing Specialist

Montana Class 7 Native American Language & Culture Certification Process for the Apsáalooke Nation

PURPOSE:

- To assess the Apsáalooke oral and written language proficiency of applicants.
- To assess the Apsáalooke cultural knowledge base of applicants.
- To assure applicant has language & culture TEACHING ABILITIES in a classroom setting.

PROCEDURE:

After an application review, the Apsáalooke Language Proctor (ALP) will offer the assessment.

- Part I: Apsáalooke Oral Language Proficiency Test (No more than 15 minutes in length).

- Part II: Apsáalooke Cultural Knowledge Test (this will be written, 20-25 Minutes in length).

Part I: **Apsáalooke Oral Language Proficiency Test** (15-20 Minutes)

The applicant will select one of the following options -

- Option 1* Applicant will choose an Apsáalooke short story and present it in the Apsáalooke storytelling mode to the Apsáalooke Language Program Proctor.
- Option 2* Applicant will orally present their personal autobiography in the Apsáalooke language. Apsáalooke Language Program Proctor will determine the language proficiency of the applicant.
- Option 3* If the applicant is over the age of 55 and the Apsáalooke Language Program Proctor attests to the applicant's language proficiency, the applicant will be accepted for the proficiency part of the test.

Part II: **Apsáalooke Written Cultural Knowledge Test** (Minimum 15 minutes in length).

The applicant will select one of the following options -

- Option 1* The applicant will select a topic listed and in the written Apsáalooke Language write about what knowledge they have of their selected topic. Apsáalooke Language Program Proctor will score the writing.
- Option 2* The applicant will answer one of 4 essay questions in a written Apsáalooke format, no more than two paragraphs. Apsáalooke Language Program Proctor will score the written test.

Montana Class 7 Native American Language & Culture Certification Process for the Apsáalooke Nation

There is no filing fee with the Apsáalooke Nation Education Department application process.

However, applicants will be required to submit a filing fee with the Montana Office of Public Instruction Certification Office upon completion of their Apsáalooke Language & Culture Class 7 Certification Process. Information regarding this is shown below.

The Montana Office of Public Instruction

Mt OPI has installed an online application process. Mail in application documents are no longer accepted.

The following is information on how to submit an application through the OPI educator licensure system. When you get to the [TeachMT](#) site, you will be asked to set up an account.

Note: With any documents you accumulate and are necessary for your submittal, you will be asked to scan them and attach them during the TeachMT online application process.

Application Process:

Submit your online application through the licensing system [TeachMT](#). Do not mail in a paper application, if you do it will be mailed back to you and slow down your process.

All application materials and required fees must be received before your application is evaluated.

Applications left incomplete for 90 days will be purged.

Montana Class 7 Native American Language & Culture Recertification Process for the Apsáalooke Nation

Recertification

Recertification process for the Montana Class 7 Apsáalooke Language & Culture Educator Certificate.

1. Class 7 Apsáalooke Language & Culture Educator Certificate recertification applicants will be required to submit 60 renewal units through the online application process on the MT OPI TeachMt website. Any renewal units will need to be approved by the OPI Certification Office and the Apsáalooke Nation Education Department. Recertification should be done five (5) years after receiving an initial Class 7 Certification and every five (5) years there after, as per Mt OPI requirements.

When offering renewal units, please offer (as many as possible) renewal units that are pertinent to Tribal language and culture.

Application for recertification filing fees for the Montana Class 7 Certificate through the MT OPI TeachMt application site will be necessary.

2. After completing the recertification process through MT OPI TeachMt Educator Licensure website, the applicant will be required to submit a copy of the 60 renewal units' documents submitted and a copy of the Mt Class 7 Teaching Certificate received.

These documents will be filed along with all testing documents that were approved by the Apsáalooke Nation Education Department.

Montana Class 7 Native American Language & Culture Certification Process for the Apsáalooke Nation

Applicant's Name: _____

School: _____

ALP Proctor: _____

Date: _____

Background Information:

1. What is your experience in teaching language in a classroom setting?

2. Montana Class 7 Teaching License is the teaching of language and/or culture. What are you now or will you be teaching?

3. What grade level(s) will you be teaching and where?

PART I: Apsáalooke Oral Language Proficiency Test (3 options - 15-20 Minutes)

Option 1

Apsáalooke oral short story - Title of Story: _____

Remarks:

Proficient _____ Pass _____ Novice _____ Fail _____

Option 2

Oral - Personal Autobiography of applicant:

Remarks:

Proficient _____ Pass _____ Novice _____ Fail _____

Option 3

Grandfather Clause - over the age of 55 & proficient in the Apsáalooke language:

Remarks:

Proficient _____ Pass _____ Novice _____ Fail _____

Part II: Apsáalooke Written Cultural Knowledge Test (2 options - Minimum 15 minutes).

Option 1 Select one of the listed and explain in written form using the Apsáalooke Language:

Circle or check selection

1. Clan System _____
2. Migration _____
3. Stories/Uses _____
4. Apsáalooke Flag _____

Comments/Remarks:

Proficient _____ Pass _____ Novice _____ Fail _____

Option 2 Select one of the listed essays and write using the Apsáalooke Language, on a separate piece of paper:

Circle or check selection number -

1. _____ Explain/Discuss the origin and importance of the Apsáalooke clan system.
2. _____ Explain/Discuss the origin, migration, and settlement of the Apsáalooke people in present-day Montana.
3. _____ Explain/Discuss how Apsáalooke stories are used and why they are important in the Apsáalooke culture.
4. _____ Explain the significance of each symbol on the Apsáalooke Nation flag.

Apsáalooke Language Program Proctor

Date

Montana Class 7 Native American Language & Culture
Certification Process for the Apsáalooke Nation

Name of Applicant: _____

Please circle one for each part:

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------------|------|------|
| I. | Apsáalooke Oral/Written Language: | Pass | Fail |
| II. | Apsáalooke Cultural Knowledge: | Pass | Fail |

Apsáalooke Language Program Proctor

Date

Class7- Native American (Apsáalooke) Language & Culture Proctor

Approval of the Class 7 – Native American Apsáalooke Language & Culture certification

The designated official(s) for signing Montana Class 7 Apsáalooke Language & Culture Educator Certification applications for the Apsáalooke Nation shall be the currently designated proctor of the Apsáalooke Language Program of the Apsáalooke Nation Education Department.

The individual designated is -

Loretta Three Irons

The above-named individual is authorized to certify application documents for the Montana Class 7 Apsáalooke Language & Culture Educator Certificate who have met tribal standards of competency and fluency:
Administrative Rules of Montana (A.R.M. 10.57.436

With the signature of the applicant and the individual authorized to certify, the applicant has been approved by the Apsáalooke Nation Education Department to receive the Mt Class 7 Teaching Certificate through the State of Montana.

Loretta Three Irons - Apsáalooke Language Program Proctor

Applicants Signature

Date



NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE

ADMINISTRATION

P.O. BOX 128
LAME DEER, MONTANA 59043
(406) 477-6284
FAX (406) 477-6210



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION AND THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE

The office of Public Instruction (OPI) and the NC Tribe agree to the following Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

WHEREAS Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 10.57.436(2) states: The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall issue a Class 7 license upon verification by the authorized representative of a tribal government, that has a memorandum of understanding the Superintendent of Public Instruction, that the applicant has met tribal standards for competency and fluency as a requisite for teaching that language and culture and

WHEREAS the Northern Cheyenne Tribe wish to have Class 7 American Indian language cultural specialists as allowed by ARM 10.57.436, the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council adopted Resolution 94 (96) that details the following:

1. The cultural, experiential, character and other qualifications and criteria which qualify a person as competent to be a specialist in the *Cheyenne* language culture for which the license is being requested;
2. The specific requirements for professional development leading to renewal of a Class 7 license [The Northern Cheyenne Tribe will use the current requirement of earning 60 renewal units in five years; and
3. The approved Tribe's authorized representative, Chief Dull Knife College to make formal written recommendation on the form supplied by the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) for an applicant for Class 7 licensure and approved to verify the professional development plan for license renewal has been met.

The Northern Cheyenne Tribe understand and agree that this MOU will be reviewed at least every five years and may be renewed or amended as agreed by the parties, if no action is taken, the MOU will automatically renew unless terminated by written notice provided at least 30 days prior to termination, by either party.

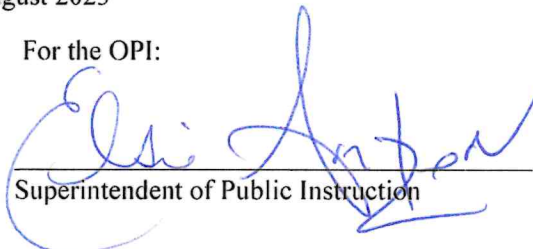
If the designated person listed in # 3 is no longer available to make recommendations to OPI, the Northern Cheyenne Tribe understand there will be no Class 7 licenses approved until a replacement is designated authorized representative. New information provided will be considered an addendum to the existing MOU and must be submitted on official letterhead and signed by the President of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe.

The forgoing provision are hereby agreed to this 23rd day of August 2023

For the Northern Cheyenne Tribe:


President, Northern Cheyenne Tribe

For the OPI:


Superintendent of Public Instruction

LITTLE WOLF AND MORNING STAR - Out of defeat and exile they led us back to Montana and won our Cheyenne homeland that we will keep forever.

Chief Dull Knife College

BOX 98 • Lame Deer, Montana 59043

Phone (406) 477-6215

To Whom It May Concern:

The authorized signatory for Chief Dull Knife College and the Northern Cheyenne Tribe is Burt Medicinebull.

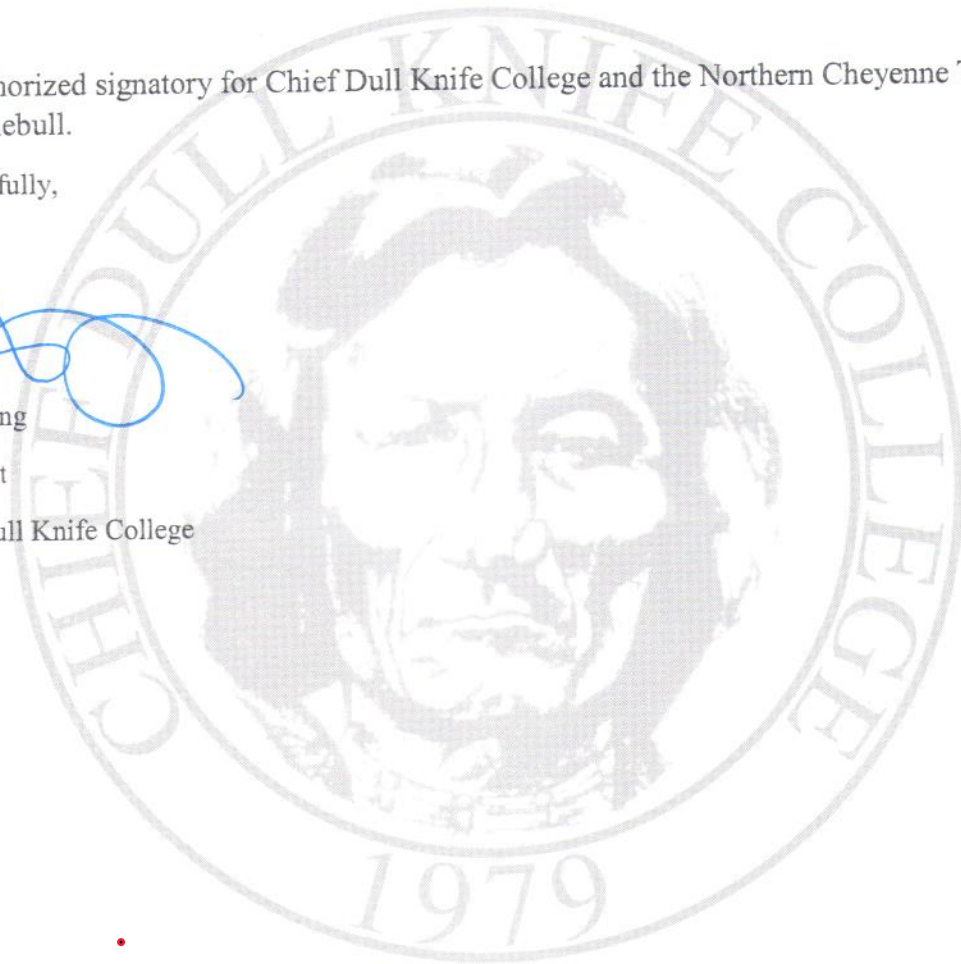
Respectfully,



Eva Flying

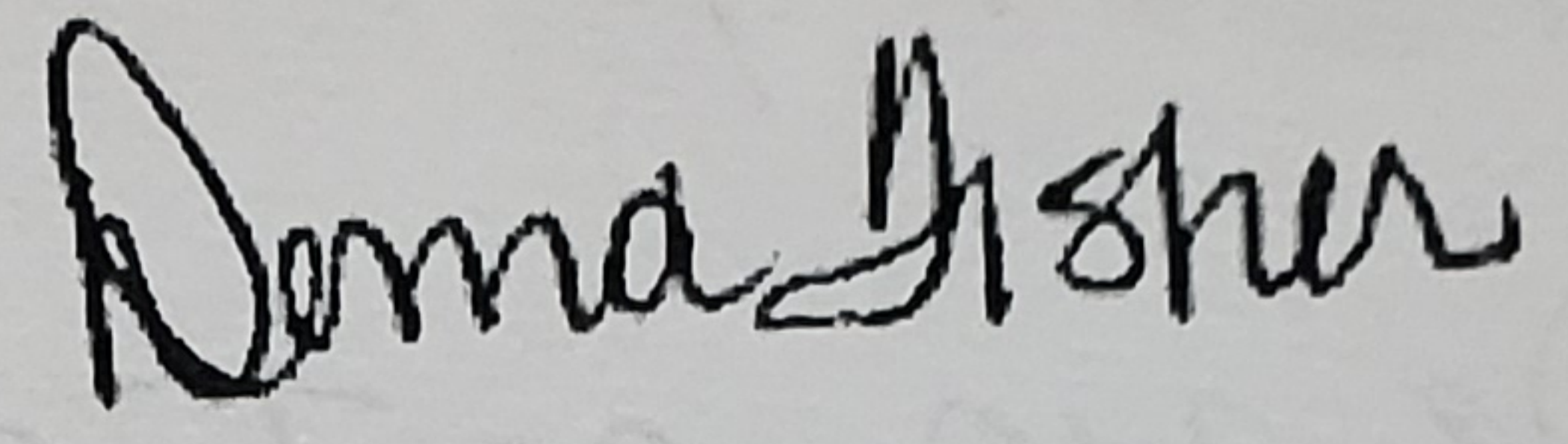
President

Chief Dull Knife College



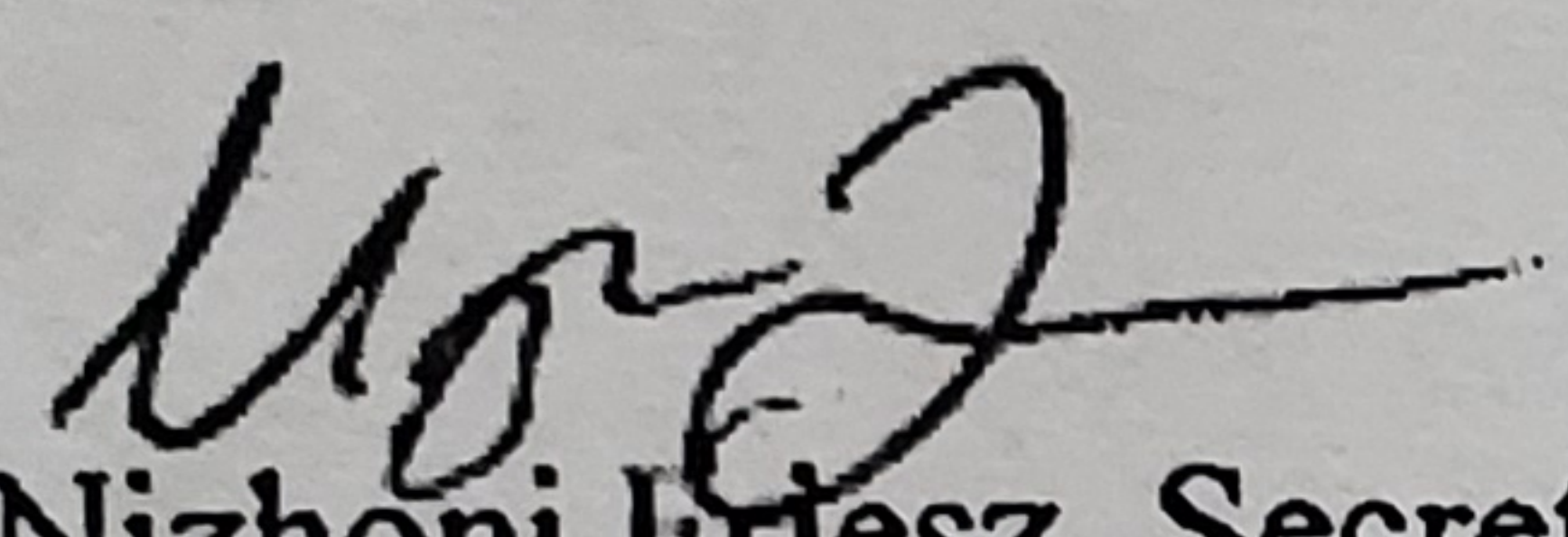
BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the Tribal Council authorizes and instructs the Tribal President to negotiate and sign a contract with Earth Island Institute with terms consistent with this Ordinance, with the assistance of the Tribal Attorney and take all actions necessary to implement this Ordinance.

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council by 9 votes for passage and adoption, 0 votes against passage and adoption, and 0 abstentions this 21st day of June 2021.



Donna Fisher, President
Northern Cheyenne Tribe

ATTEST:



Nizhoni Friesz, Secretary
Northern Cheyenne Tribe

Approved:

THEDIS
CROWE

Digitally signed by
THEDIS CROWE
Date: 2021.07.07
09:22:36 -06'00'

Acting Superintendent

ORDINANCE NO. DOI – 018 (2021)

AN ORDINANCE FROM THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE COALITION OF CHEYENNE LANGUAGE SPEAKERS FOR THE PRESERVATION, REVITALIZATION, AND TEACHING OF THE CHEYENNE LANGUAGE (COALITION), APPROVED AND RECOGNIZED BY THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL WITH RESOLUTION NO. DOI-128 (1996), DESIRES TO CHANGE THIS APPROVAL AND RECOGNITION TO BE IN ORDINANCE FORM

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe (Tribe) is the governing body of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe pursuant to the Amended Constitution and Bylaws of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe of the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation, as approved by the Secretary of the Interior on May 31, 1996; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council is authorized under Article IV, Section 1(e), of the Tribe's Constitution to engage in any business that will further the economic well-being of the members of the Tribe and to undertake any economic activity of any nature whatever not inconsistent with law or any of the provisions of the Tribe's Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council is authorized under Article IV, Section 1 (l), of the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Constitution to cultivate and preserve native arts, crafts, culture, and Indian ceremonies; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance (10)97 states that the Northern Cheyenne people value this language, granted by Ma'heo'o to the Cheyenne people and is, therefore, a sacred language, it is the sacred duty of the present generation of Cheyenne language speakers to pass this sacred language to future generations; and

WHEREAS, only 364 fluent speakers remain on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation and it is imperative that the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council support the changing of this document from a resolution to an ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council has recognized and fully supports the Coalition to carry out the responsibilities expressed in Ordinance 10(97) and acknowledges that the Cheyenne language is the main conveyance of Cheyenne cultural values and its sacred words are indispensable in the performance of Cheyenne sacred rituals and ceremonies; now

THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED that the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council hereby reaffirms its full support, including financial support, of the Northern Cheyenne Coalition of Cheyenne language.

RESOLUTION #29-1654-2019-07

TRIBAL GOVERNMENT
Administrative

WHEREAS, the Fort Peck Tribal Executive Board is the duly elected body representing the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation and is empowered to act on behalf of the Tribes. All actions shall be adherent to provisions set forth in the 1960 Constitution and By-Laws, and

WHEREAS, this resolution supersedes resolution #28-1789-2017-04, the Fort Peck Tribal Education Department requests the Class 7 application, testing and verification be housed within the Education Department, and

Whereas, The Education Department is authorized to establish the eligibility of interested people who may be verified as a qualified applicant for a Class 7 Certificate, for Native American Language and Culture to be taught in Public Schools, and

Whereas, The Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Language Committees will conduct oral and written language requirements to determine if the applicant passes the written and oral language examination for Class 7 Licensure. The Assiniboine language committee speakers consist of: Ken Ryan, Viola Wood, Ron Moccasin, and Dean Blount. The Sioux Language Committee speakers consist of: Dean Blount, Tom Escarcega Sr., Barbara Birdsbill, Ramey Growing Thunder, and Tomecina Escarcega. These language committee members will conduct the interviewing for all individuals applying for the Class 7 Certification test, and

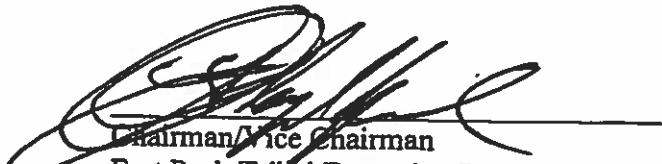
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Fort Peck Tribal Executive Board approves the Education Department to be responsible for Montana State Office of Public Instruction Class 7 Language and Culture Specialist licensing, testing and submission and to be processed at the Office of Public Instruction in Helena, Montana.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned Secretary/Accountant of the Tribal Executive Board of the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, hereby certify that the Tribal Executive Board is composed of 12 voting members of whom 12 constituting a quorum were present at a Regular Board meeting duly convened on this 8th day of July, 2019 and that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted at such meeting by the affirmative vote of 11 for and 1 absent.


Secretary Accountant

APPROVED:


Chairman/Vice Chairman
Fort Peck Tribal Executive Board



BLACKFEET NATION

P.O. BOX 850 BROWNING, MONTANA 59417
(406) 338-7521 FAX (406) 338-7530

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
"Scott" Kipp, Sr., Chairman
Ren J. Monroe, Jr., Vice-Chairman
Rick Armstrong, Jr., Secretary
A. Gervais, Treasurer

BLACKFEET TRIBAL BUSINESS COUNCIL
Timothy Davis
Lyle Rutherford
Shelly Hall
Patrick Armstrong, Jr.
Virgil Last Star
Everett Armstrong
Lauren Monroe, Jr.
Ilf "Scott" Kipp, Sr.
Marvin Weatherwax, Jr.

RESOLUTION

Approving Signatory Authority for Class 7 Language Instructors

No. 33-2023

WHEREAS, The Blackfeet Tribal Business Council is the duly constituted governing body within the exterior boundaries of the Blackfeet Indian Nation pursuant to Section 16 of Act of June 18, 1934 and Amendments thereof, and

WHEREAS, The Blackfeet Tribal Business Council has been organized to represent, develop, protect and advance the views, interests, and resources education and resources of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, and

WHEREAS, The Blackfeet Tribal Business Council is empowered, pursuant to Article VI-Powers of the Council, Section 1(e) to manage all economic affairs and enterprises of the Blackfeet Reservation; and, Section 1(g) to manage tribal affairs in an acceptable and businesslike manner and in accordance with the administrative plan called the Plan of Operations, and

WHEREAS, The Blackfeet Tribal Business provides for the approval of Class 7 Instructors for the State of Montana OPI to certify Blackfeet Language Instructors through the public schools for persons who meet qualifications to provide the instruction, and

WHEREAS, The Blackfeet Tribal Business Council for each administration regularly approves signatory authority for which Councilmembers will provide the Class 7 approval, and

WHEREAS, The Blackfeet Tribal Business Council has started a new administration term in 2002 and has determined that the approval for Class 7 instruction should be provided by any one (1) of the nine (9) Tribal councilmembers upon proof that such Class 7 certification applicant meets the guidelines for Blackfeet Language

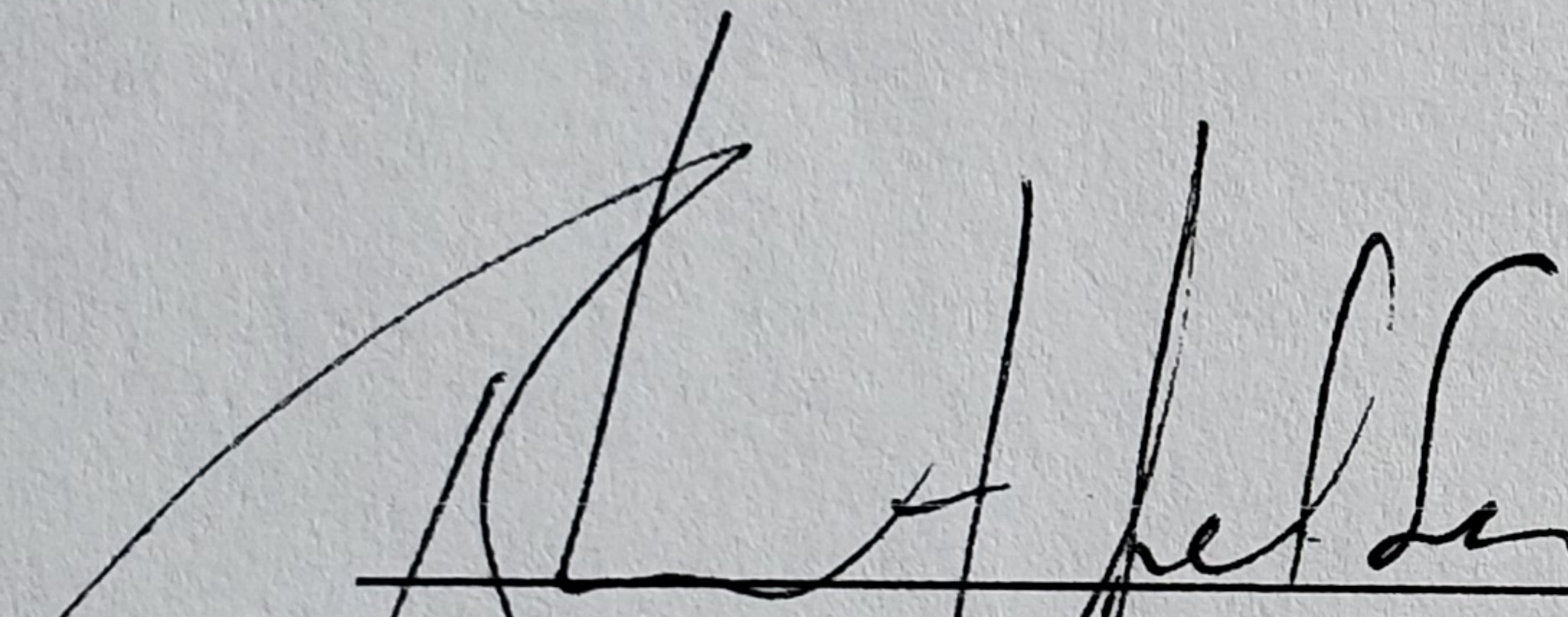
Instruction, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

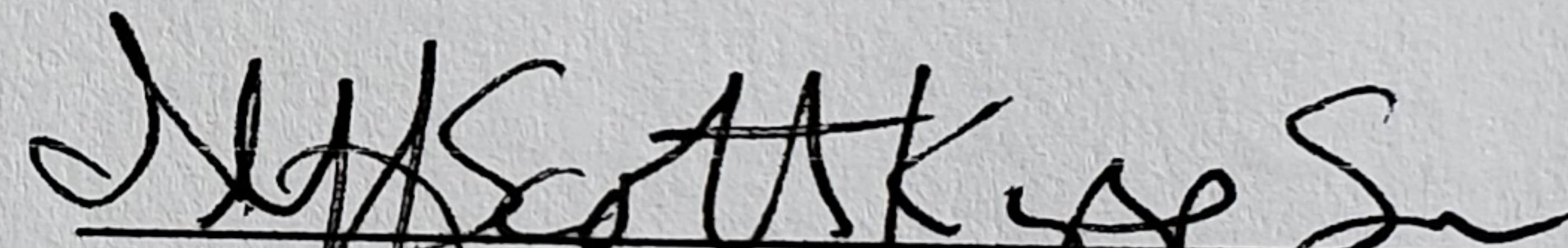
1. The Blackfeet Tribal Business Council hereby approves any (1) Tribal Business Council of the nine (9) membership to approve Class 7 Blackfeet Language Instruction Certifications upon sufficient evidence that the guidelines are met for such certification by the applicant.
2. That the Chairman or Vice-Chairman in the Chairman's absence and Secretary of the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council are hereby authorized to sign this Resolution and any other documents to effectuate the purposes of this Resolution.

ATTEST:

**THE BLACKFEET TRIBE OF THE
BLACKFEET INDIAN RESERVATION**



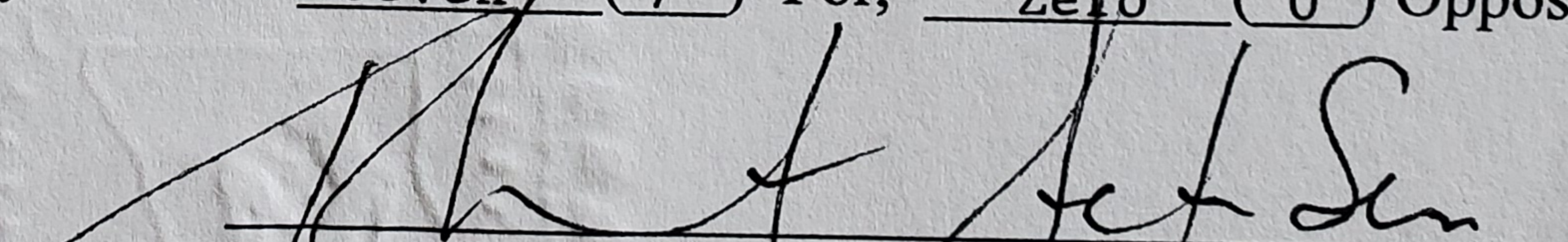
PATRICK D. ARMSTRONG, JR.
 Secretary



ILIFF "SCOTT" KIPP, SR.
 Chairman

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council in a duly called noticed and convened Special Session assembled for business the 7th day of October, 2022, with Seven (7) members present to constitute a quorum and by a vote of Seven (7) For, Zero (0) Opposed and Zero (0) Abstained.



PATRICK D. ARMSTRONG, JR., Secretary
Blackfeet Tribal Business Council

(SEAL)