



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

NAWAYEE CENTER SCHOOL

Experiential education from an indigenous perspective

Our Mission:
Providing transformative education, grounded in indigenous life-ways and a love of learning



Reflections

by Joseph C. Rice

Hello to all of Center School's friends,

As I look back over my past eighteen years as Director, I see a lot of change. Our relationship to the community has grown as have our relationships with our many community partners and the Minneapolis Public Schools. I have witnessed and now understand with much more clarity that our work here is a part of a continual evolution and the interweaving of many cycles. Things like student enrollment, graduation rates, parent involvement, bringing on new staff, etc all tend to change according to natural cycles. As we continue to learn how to work more effectively, we see the highs and lows of these cycles even out. We see more student interested in learning as a result and more productive collaborations within the community. The elders say only the constant in life is continual change and we must take this wisdom to heart and try to encourage changes that support our mission of providing a culturally supportive and rigorous education for Native youth.

This past year has seen significant changes once again. We received a five-year grant from the MN Department of Health to initiate our Medicine Wheel Health program, which addresses the health of our students and staff from an Indigenous perspective. Our science program continues to grow in strength, as this year we hired an experienced Master Teacher with over thirty years of experience to head up our Science instruction and learning efforts at Nawayee. As always we are continually discovering new insights about how to best engage, support and inspire learning and self-discovery, and how to do this as a learning community where everyone is responsible for the enlightenment of all.

Our Summer School is centered around our community garden and re-establishing our connection to the earth. Additional curriculum offers Science, Dakota and Ojibwe Languages, Language Arts and Social Studies coursework. It is an important part of our healing journey as Indigenous people and as I see it, many mental, physical, emotional and spiritual seeds are planted in the garden each summer and the harvest has been rich and will continue to be so.

Center School is in the heart of the Native community and the confluence here of visionary leadership, an abundance of enthusiastic collaborators and the richness of innovations and ideas, represent an enormous opportunity as we move forward.

Here is what I believe: (1) Our kids have enormous potential (2) we can reach them and teach them using Indigenous teaching methods, (3) there are people who understand this and are willing to help and (4) the work that we do here is extremely important.

At this time and place we are in a great position and becoming ever more wise as we continue to learn about our students and their families in an ever growing, healthy and mutually enriching relationship.

Many visitors to Center School remark on the welcoming spirit of our building when they enter, and that is no accident, that is what we are really about, and what we strive for. More than anything, we value each other.

I invite you to stop by and visit us, have a cup of tea, see the school, meet the students. You are welcome at any time.

Staff

Joe Rice
Executive Director

Sue Dimler
Accounting/Finance

Mary Cullen
Instructional Leader

Jessica Nadeau
Development / Grants

Vicki Hollow
Office Manager, Enrollment/Attendance

Patricia Welch, MA ATP, MFT
Licensed Therapist

Dave Thomas
Social Studies

Molly Stoker
Language Arts

Walt Johnson
Science

Meghan Hunkins
Math

Migisi Spears
Security Coordinator

Victor "Rocky" Makes Room for Them
Medicine Wheel Program Director

Angela Richards
Medicine Wheel Program Associate

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PAST YEAR

- FUNDED BY A FIVE-YEAR GRANT FROM THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION WE INAUGURATED OUR MEDICINE WHEEL HEALTH PROGRAM WHICH ADDRESSES MENTAL, PHYSICAL, SPIRITUAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH
- WE HOSTED MONTHLY COMMUNITY MEALS FOR OUR LOCAL ELDERS AND MADE MANY NEW FRIENDS AND HELPED TO STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITY BONDS
- FOR THE 12TH STRAIGHT YEAR WE HOSTED THE MDE MAKA SKA CANOE NATIONS GATHERING ON THE SOUTHWEST SHORE OF MDE MAKA SKA (AKA KNOWN AS "CALHOUN" FOR A BRIEF PERIOD OF HISTORY), INVOLVING HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS AND OVER 20 COMMUNITY PARTNERS
- WE GRADUATED SEVEN STUDENTS, WHO WE WILL MISS GREATLY. THESE AMAZING STUDENTS WERE USHERED INTO COLLEGE OR THE WORKFORCE BY NONE OTHER THAN OUR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, PEGGY FLANAGAN, WHO DELIVERED A WONDERFUL KEYNOTE ADDRESS.
- WE ENHANCED THE SCHOOL'S SECURITY, BY HIRING A SAFETY COORDINATOR AND INSTALLING SECURITY CAMERAS THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE SCHOOL BUILDING
- WE BEGAN A PARTNERSHIP WITH EDVISIONS TO CONTINUE OUR MOVEMENT TOWARDS STUDENT-CENTERED LEARNING AS WE ARE MENTORED BY THEM IN THE APPLICATION OF PROJECT-BASED LEARNING STRATEGIES
- OUR LICENSED ART THERAPIST, PAT WELCH, SHARED HER PEDAGOGICAL APPROACH WITH LOCAL AND NATIONAL COMMUNITY PARTNERS TO HELP SPREAD INDIGENOUS EDUCATIONAL PEDAGOGY
- A FILM CREW FROM ACTUAL FILMS, INC, FILMED OVER TWENTY HOURS OF INTERVIEWS AND LESSONS IN PROGRESS OF SCHOOL STAFF AND STUDENTS IN PREPARATION FOR A SHORT DOCUMENTARY ABOUT INDIGENOUS APPROACHES TO HEALING
- WE RE-INTRODUCED OVER 100 STUDENTS TO EDUCATION AND A LIFELONG LOVE OF LEARNING



GOALS FOR THE UPCOMING SCHOOL YEAR

- **WE HOPE TO HAVE ALL OF OUR INSTRUCTORS WELL-VERSED IN PROJECT-BASED LEARNING BY THE END OF THIS SCHOOL YEAR AS A PART OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH ED-VISIONS INC.**
- **WE ARE CONTINUALLY WORKING TO MAKE OUR SCHOOL A SAFER PLACE FOR OUR STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES. AS WE HAVE INCREASED OUR SECURITY WE WILL CONTINUE TO TRAIN OUR STAFF IN TRAUMA-INFORMED CLASSROOM TEACHING AND BUILDING RESILIENCE FOR THE ENTIRE SCHOOL AND OUR SURROUNDING COMMUNITY**
- **WE ARE COMMITTED TO MAKING SURE THAT ALL OF OUR CREDIT-ELIGIBLE SENIORS GRADUATE IN JUNE**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Gifts and Grants 2018-2019

Foundations & Corporations

ANA - Administration for Native Americans
 Beim Foundation
 Beverly
 The Bush Foundation
 Chapel Hills United Church of Christ
 Dream of Wild Health
 First Universalist
 Gen YOUTH Foundation
 Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches
 Headwaters Foundation for Justice
 Honor the Earth
 Jacob's Well
 James R. Thorpe
 Kiwanis Club
 Lake Country School
 Minneapolis Foundation
 Minnesota Department of Health - SAMHSA
 Minneapolis Indian Women's Resource Center
 Minnesota Women's Club
 Northern Plains Reservation Aid
 Project for Pride in Living
 Seward Community Co-op
 Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
 Archie D & Bertha H Walker Foundation
 Still Ain't Satisfied
 Woman's Club of Minneapolis
 WCA
 Youthprise

USE OF FUNDS

School (Nawayee Center School) Program (55%)

ANA (Administration for Native Americans)
 SABA, Mental Health Program for Native Youth (9%)

SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration-Center for Mental Health Services) Program: (15%)

Admin (21%): Office support for Programs and Fundraising.

2018-2019 FINANCIALS

INCOME STATEMENT

TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 888,817
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 892,017
School Program	\$ 486,376
ANA SABA	\$ 83,101
SAMHSA	\$ 136,139
Admin	\$ 186,401

BALANCE SHEET

TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 177,876
Current Assets	\$ 135,734
Fixed Assets	\$ 42,142
CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$ 89,712
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$ 182,835
Unrestricted	\$ 177,835
Temporarily Restricted	\$ 5,000

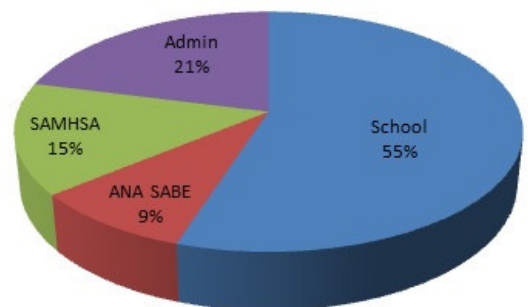
TOTAL

LIABILITIES &

NET ASSETS

\$ 177,876

2018-2019 Expenses





BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019-20

**THANK YOU TO OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR
THEIR SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE DURING THE
LAST YEAR**

Brittany Anderson
(Voting member)
University of Minnesota Dept. of
Indian Studies

Naomi Farabee
(Board Chair)
Augsburg University

Graham Hartley
(Secretary/Treasurer)
Director of MIGIZI Programs

Karen McCall
(Voting Member)
McCall Design, Inc.

Patina Park
(Vice Chair)
Director,
Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center

Owen Turnlund,
(Voting Member)
Plymouth Christian Youth Center

Leo Whitebird
(Voting Member)

Stephanie Zadora
(Voting member)
St. Stephen's Human Services



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