

Questions from Rep. Ruben Gallego for Mr. Lance Witte: 1. What written guidance or other communication, if any, did you receive from B.I.E. last spring and/or over the summer regarding the reopening plans for the upcoming school year?

Representative Gallego,

The B.I.E. sent out sample surveys for parents in July. We utilized those surveys with our parents to collect data. After that, no guidance for the school opening was sent out until late August. We used information from parent surveys, C.D.C., South Dakota Department of Health, South Department of Education, and other school districts around the state to develop our Return to Learn Plan. Our Return to Learn Plan was approved on August 5<sup>th</sup> by the Lower Brule Tribal Council. We were asked to send the Return to Learn Plan to the B.I.E., and we met their request. We then told on September 4<sup>th</sup> that the B.I.E. was evaluating our Return to Learn Plan with a rubric that we were never provided. On September 15<sup>th</sup>, we received the feedback on Return to Learn Plan and were asked to make adjustments based on the feedback. We modified our Plan in a couple of days as directed. Finally, we received an email from Dr. Tsosie, BIE Minneapolis, before we were able to send the modifications that they approved the Plan without modifications.