

SISSETON-WAHPETON OYATE OF THE LAKE TRAVERSE RESERVATION

HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION

The Vision of Gilbert & Patricia Gill began for the overall well-being of their children & the future of their Tribe's children in an alternative educational learning environment.

On January 28, 1980, Gilbert & Patricia Gill called for a Parent Group and Committee to come together to present a "*statement of treatment of Indian students in Sisseton Public Schools to the Sisseton School Board.*"

- Arlene Miller
- Esther Lafromboise
- Ardella "Cookie" Feather
- Gilbert Gill
- Curtis Hill
- Michelle Gill
- Irvin Cook
- Faith Lutkins
- Denise Renville
- Silas Owen
- Ellen Fisher
- Ron Goodsell
- Catherine Blackthunder
- Everett Blackthunder
- Patricia Gill
- Nancy Buckanaga-Smith
- Dennis Gill
- Darlene Pipe Boy
- Felix Renville
- Gladys Conquering Bear
- Vince Two Eagles
- Cliff Blue Dog
- Mary High Eagle
- Mary Jensen
- Betty King

This parent board developed a mission statement, parent/student handbook, a staff expectation handbook, alternative learning environment guidelines, cultural lessons, Dakota values, and line of authority for the development of a tribal school.

On March 4, 1981, a Resolution is presented to the Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribal Council for the "Establishment of an Elementary and Secondary Educational System." On June 2, 1981, the Sisseton-Wahpeton School Board receives their approved Charter and Articles of Incorporation from the Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribal Council.

On May 1, 1981, the Parent Board approves board name as "**Sisseton-Wahpeton School Board**" and school name as "**Tiospa Zina Tribal School**", Patricia Gill's recommendation to name the school after her husband's personal spiritual vision.

Gilbert Gill, practiced and believed whole-heartedly in the spiritual Dakota traditional way of life. Gilbert had a Canupa (spiritual pipe) made out of pipestone, which was made specifically for the new school. Through Gilbert's

dreams and visions, he came to find a higher power that led him to find good people to help him pursue this educational endeavor for his children and all tribal member children.

- Tiospa – Meaning, “Extended Family”
- Zi – Meaning, “Yellow,” which is identified with the eastern cardinal direction. This direction also represents a new day, a new beginning
- Na - Represents the little people, or a humble being.

In 1986, the Tiospa Zina Tribal School was approved and awarded a Contract School Funding Request from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. In 1986, the school moves from accreditation of a K-8 school, to a fully accredited K-12, through the State of South Dakota.

CHARTER OF THE SISSETON-WAHPETON SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, under its amended Constitution and By- Laws, Article VII -Powers, Section I (g), (h), and (j), has the powers to take any action by resolution through boards to carry into effect the foregoing purposes, to promote education and such other services as may contribute to the social advancement of members of the tribe and to approve such organizations by a proper delegation of authorities by the Tribal Council, hereby establishes the SISSETON-WAHPETON SCHOOL BOARD.

ARTICLE I
NAME

The name of this Board shall be: SISSETON-WAHPETON SCHOOL BOARD.

ARTICLE II
DURATION

The Board shall be perpetual in name and duration.

ARTICLE III
PURPOSES

A.) To provide an educational process for students of Indigenous ancestry, which will take into perspective the cultural heritage, and social background of the Indigenous

- student;
- B.) To develop educational programs relevant to Indigenous culture, history, art, language and tradition to be used in the educational system;
 - C.) To develop, implement, operate and evaluate basic education programs (Pre K-12) to be used in the educational system;
 - D.) To further the educational alternatives available to parents of Indigenous children by developing, maintaining and operating educational institutions governed by the School Board.
 - E.) To advocate, sponsor and support the availability and utilization of resources and personnel to aid in the advancement of educational opportunities of Indigenous children;
 - F.) To formulate and enhance educational curricula relevant to the needs of Indigenous people and communities;
 - G.) To advance Indigenous students through college and career readiness;
 - H.) To employ the most highly qualified and effective Educational Personnel to fulfill the purposes set out above as specified in the job description.

ARTICLE IV POWERS

The School Board shall have the following powers:

- A.) To be perpetual in name;
- B.) To be immune from suit under Tribal sovereign immunity;
- C.) To purchase, take, receive, lease, take by gift, devise or bequest, or otherwise acquire, own, hold, improve, use and otherwise deal in and with any personal and real property, including Indigenous trust or restricted lands whether within or outside the reservation, or any interest therein, wherever situated;
- D.) To make contracts, agreements, incur liabilities, borrow money at market interest rates from commercial lending institutions, as the Board may determine appropriate and secure any of its obligations by mortgage or pledge of all or any of its property or income;
- E.) To invest and reinvest funds;
- F.) To conduct its affairs, carry on its operation, hold property, have offices and have such other powers as are generally exercised by School Boards;
- G.) To elect or appoint officers and agents of the Board and define their duties and fix their compensation;
- H.) To make and alter By-Laws, not inconsistent with this Charter or with the laws, ordinances and regulations of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate and the United States for the administration and regulation of the affairs of the School Board.
- I.) To promulgate and make rules and regulations affecting elementary and secondary education on the reservation.

ARTICLE V
REGISTERED OFFICE AND REGISTERED AGENT

The registered office and agent shall be:

- A.) Education Department, Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, P.O. Box 509, Agency Village, South Dakota 57262
- B.) The registered agent shall be the current chairperson of the SISSETON-WAHPETON SCHOOL BOARD, with the address being the same as Article V (A).

ARTICLE VI
SCHOOL BOARD

- A.) Each Board member shall be elected by the eligible voters (18 years and older) from his/her district, and shall be elected and serve according to each districts constitution and By-Laws.
- B.) The Board shall approve and ensure policies and procedures are adhered to.
- C.) The Board shall appoint officers consisting of a Chairperson, Vice- Chairperson, and Secretary/Treasurer who shall comprise the Executive Committee of the Board, who shall carry out the duties and powers of the Board as defined in this Charter and in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE VII
BY-LAWS

The By-Laws shall be reviewed and approved by the Sisseton-Wahpeton School Board by April 30th of each year.

ARTICLE VIII
AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this Charter and to the By-Laws shall be approved by the Sisseton-Wahpeton School Board and by the Tribal Council.

***BY-LAWS OF THE SISSETON-WAHPETON SCHOOL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS***

**ARTICLE I
NAME AND DURATION**

- Section 1. The name of this tribally chartered organization shall be the Sisseton-Wahpeton School Board.
- Section 2. The period of existence of this tribal organization shall be perpetual.
- Section 3. The Sisseton-Wahpeton School Board exists under and are governed by the laws of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, as well as the tribal Charter and these By-Laws.

**ARTICLE II
PURPOSE**

The Sisseton-Wahpeton School Board (hereinafter in these By-Laws referred to as the School Board or Board of Directors) has been organized for the following purposes:

- A.) To provide an educational process for students of Indigenous ancestry which will take into perspective the cultural heritage and social background of the Indigenous student,
- B.) To develop educational programs relevant to Indigenous culture, history, art, language and tradition to be used in the educational system,
- C.) To develop, implement, operate and evaluate basic programs (Pre K-12) to be used in the educational system,
- D.) To further the educational alternatives available to parents of Indigenous children by developing, maintaining, and operating educational institutions governed by the School Board,
- E.) To advocate, sponsor and support the availability and utilization of resources and personnel to aid in the advancement of educational opportunities of Indigenous children,
- F.) To formulate and enhance educational curricula relevant to the needs of Indigenous people and communities,
- G.) To advance Indigenous students through college and career readiness,

- H.) To provide for and facilitate the presentation of works relating to the cultural and artistic endeavors of the indigenous people of North America, and
- I.) To employ the most highly qualified and effective educational personnel to fulfill purposes set out above as specified in the job description.

ARTICLE III
USE OF FUNDS

The Board shall have the power to receive, accept and administer donations of money, funds, and/or other property, which shall be used exclusively to carry out the stated purposes of the tribal Charter and these By-Laws. The Sisseton-Wahpeton School Board is authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for expenses incurred by its members while attending regular meetings, or special meetings and/or other activities deemed by the School Board as a furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article II or these By-Laws and the tribal Charter. Upon dissolution of this tribal organization for any reason, the School Board shall dispose of and transfer all of its remaining assets to the tribal government or Federal Government, or to a state or local government for a public purpose.

ARTICLE IV
REGISTERED OFFICE AND REGISTERED AGENT

The registered office shall be:

- A.) Education Department, Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, Box 509, Agency Village, SD 57262.
- B.) The registered agent shall be the current chairperson of the Sisseton-Wahpeton School Board.

ARTICLE V
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1. The Board of Directors shall consist of seven (7) members, which one from each political district. They shall be elected and serve according to each district's constitution and By-Laws. (Terms will be every 2 years); each elected board member is required to complete and pass the mandatory background check. Alternates may be determined by each District, (pending background checks on file with the Human Resources Office).
- Section 2. School Board Members may not be employed by Tiospa Zina Tribal School.
- Section 3. The Board of Directors shall appoint officers consisting of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and a Secretary/Treasurer who shall serve as the executive committee of the Board. If a resignation or removal of an executive officer occurs during a term, the Board shall appoint another Board member to fill the duties and responsibilities of that executive officer.

Section 4. Non-voting student representatives shall be selected from 9-12 student council representatives each school term to attend each meeting of the School Board, as designated by the student council.

All Board members shall serve in accordance with the provisions of the Charter and By-Laws of the Sisseton-Wahpeton School Board and its approved documents.

There shall be no limitation to the number of terms a Board member may serve.

Section 5. The Board of Directors shall have the following powers and duties:

- a. To establish the long-term goals, policies, and priorities for Tiospa Zina Tribal School,
- b. To establish major administrative policies to govern the affairs of Tiospa Zina Tribal School,
- c. To approve an annual budget revisions, audit, and expenditures, and any budget changes for the school, to approve and authorize all monetary expenditures of the school,
- d. To establish standing committees, and to assign specific tasks, duties, and powers thereto, and to appoint the chairpersons of all standing committees of the School Board, and
- e. To be responsible for hiring staff (considering funding available) and to discharge such staff within the parameters of the Sisseton-Wahpeton School Board policies.

Section 6. In absence of the Chairperson, or in the event that the Chairperson is unable or unwilling to act as Chairperson of the School Board, the Vice-Chairperson of the School Board shall assume the position and duties of the Chairperson of the Board. Should both the Chairperson and/or the Vice-Chairperson be unable or unwilling to act as Chairperson, the Secretary/Treasurer shall assume the duties of the Chairperson.

Section 7. Each member of the Board of Directors shall have one vote. Chairperson of the Board shall have the same voting rights as all other Board Members.

Section 8. Regular meetings of the School Board shall be held on the second Tuesday of each calendar month at the school unless otherwise determined by the School Board. Such meetings shall be open to the general public.

Section 9. Special meetings of the School Board may be called by or at the request of the Chairperson or any four Board of Directors. The person or persons authorized to call the special meeting when deemed necessary.

Section 10. Notice of any regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors, shall be

given either verbally (including a telephone call) or in writing, a sufficient length of time before the set time for holding such regular or special meeting, but in no event later than two days prior to any meeting. The attendance of a Board member at a meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting, except where a member attends a meeting for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business because the meeting is not lawfully called or convened. Neither the business to be transacted at, nor the purpose of, any regular or special meeting of the Board need be specified in the waiver notice or Waiver of Notice of such meeting, unless specifically required by law or these By-Laws.

- Section 11. Any action required to be taken at a meeting of the Board, or any other action which may be taken at a meeting of the Board, may be taken without a meeting if consent in writing and duly notarized or witnessed by two persons, setting forth the action so taken, shall be signed by all the Board members entitled to vote with respect to the matter thereof.
- Section 12. A majority (4) of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction or business at any meeting of the Board.
- Section 13. The act of majority of the Board of Directors present at a meeting shall be the act of the Sisseton-Wahpeton School Board, except where otherwise provided by law or these By-Laws.
- Section 14. In the event of a vacancy occurring on the Board of Directors, whether by death or resignation, or through any other means, the respective political district shall appoint a replacement member accepted by the Board to fill a vacancy shall serve for the unexpired term of his/her predecessor on the Board of Directors.
- Section 15. A Board member who is present at a meeting of the Board at which acting on any matter is taken shall be presumed to have assented to the action unless his/her dissent shall be entered in the minutes of the meeting before the adjournment thereof, or unless he/she shall forward such dissent by registered mail to the Secretary/Treasurer of the Board immediately after the adjournment of the meeting. Such right to dissent shall not apply to a Board member who voted in favor of such action.
- Section 16. At all meetings of the Board, members have (1) vote in person and/or virtually, as deemed appropriate by the Board.
- Section 17. The Board of Directors shall receive compensation for each regular and special meeting, provided funds are available for such purposes.
- Section 18. Each Board of Directors shall take the following oath of office: "I, do solemnly swear that I will faithfully, and impartially, carry out the duties

of my office; uphold the Constitution and By-Laws of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, and the Charter and By-Laws of the Sisseton-Wahpeton School Board; that I will do my utmost, to preserve and promote the traditional Dakota cultural way of life, and to fully carry out the goals and mission of Tiospa Zina Tribal School. These things I will do to the best of my ability."

Section 19. Any member may resign by filing a written resignation clearly stating the reason or reasons for such action with the duly elected Chairperson of the School Board. Said vacancy shall be filled by the respective district. In no case should the appointment extend beyond the replaced member's term.

Section 20. Any School Board member may be removed from the Board by their political districts, Constitution, and By-Laws. (Unethical behavior will be referred by the Chairperson to their respective district -Chapter 55 Tribal Code, Sisseton-Wahpeton School Board Policies, and/or 3-consecutive missed meetings.)

ARTICLE VI
OFFICERS

- Section 1. The officers of the Board shall be a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary/ Treasurer, all of whom shall be members in good standing of the Sisseton-Wahpeton School Board. No two officers shall be held by the same person at the same time. The Secretary/Treasurer office shall be considered as one office held by one person.
- Section 2. The officers of the School Board, being duly elected from the body of the Sisseton-Wahpeton School Board which duly constitutes the Board of Directors for policy and Administrative purposes, shall be subject to the terms of Article V.
- Section 3. Each officer shall hold office until he/she shall have been removed in the manner provided for in Article V, of this By-Laws or every two years beginning January, 1993.
- Section 4. Any officer may resign at any time by giving written notice of his/her resignation to the Board, to the Chairperson, or to the Secretary/Treasurer of the School Board. Any such resignation shall take effect at the time specified therein, and unless otherwise specified therein, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.
- Section 5. A vacancy in any office because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification, or otherwise shall be filled by the Board of Directors. An officer elected by the Board of Directors to fill a vacancy shall serve the unexpired term of his/her predecessor in office.
- Section 6. The duties of the Chairperson of the Board shall be as follows:
- a. To serve as the Chairperson of the Board and of the Executive Committee,
 - b. To serve as a member of all committees as designated,
 - c. To serve as the official representative of the School Board in the community, as designated by the Board of Directors,
 - d. To conduct the meetings of the Executive Committee and to convene the Board of Directors,
 - e. To authenticate, with his/her signature when necessary, all acts, orders, and proceedings of the Corporation,
 - f. To perform all other duties relevant to the office of Chairperson, and such other duties as defined in these By-Laws or by the Board from time to time.
- Section 7. The duties of the Vice-Chairperson of the Board shall be defined as follows:
- a. To assume and perform the duties of the Chairperson in the

Chairperson's absence or in the event of the Chairperson's inability to act, and

- b. To perform and assume all other duties relevant to the office of Vice-Chairperson and such other duties as may be defined in these By-Laws or as from time to time may be assigned to him/her by the Chairperson of the Board.

Section 8. The duties of the Secretary/Treasurer or a delegated appointee of the Board shall be as follows:

- a. To keep official records of all proceedings of the Board and records of Board actions,
- b. To handle all correspondence of the Board, including correspondence of the Board and the Executive Committee,
- c. To notify officers, committee members, and chairpersons of their election or their appointments, to furnish committees with whatever documents are required for their performance of duties, and to have on hand at each meeting a list of all existing committees and their members,
- d. To send out the general notice to the Board of each regular or special meeting and to send out the notices.
- e. To perform all other duties relevant to the office of the Secretary/Treasurer, and such other duties as defined in these By-Laws or by the Board from time to time.

ARTICLE VII
STANDING COMMITTEES

- Section 1. The standing committee of the Sisseton-Wahpeton School Board shall be the Executive Committee, and there shall be such other standing committees of the Board as shall be established from time to time.
- Section 2. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Officers of the Board of Directors. This committee shall meet when necessary. The Chairperson of the Board shall be the Chairperson of the Executive Committee. The Board may delegate to the Executive Committee the power to transact business between regularly scheduled meetings of the Board. The Executive Committee shall keep full minutes at each of its meetings. The Executive Committee shall have the power to establish ad hoc committees and to appoint the chairperson thereof. Executive Committee meetings shall be open to the general membership.

ARTICLE VIII
FINANCE

- Section 1. The Board may authorize the Superintendent, as the authority to execute and deliver any financial documents on behalf of, the School Board. Such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.
- Section 2. The Board of Directors on behalf of the School Board, may accept any contribution, gift, bequest, or device for the general purpose or any special purpose of the School Board.
- Section 3. The Board of Directors will review and approve monthly financial reports.
- Section 4. To sign, with the Secretary/Treasurer, or any other proper officer authorized by the Board, any checks, deeds, mortgages, bonds, contracts, or other instruments which the Board has authorized to be executed, except in cases when the signing and execution, thereof, shall be expressly delegated by the Board of these By-Laws or by statute, to some other officer or agent.

ARTICLE IX
FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the School Board shall be July 1 to June 30.

ARTICLE X
BOOKS AND RECORDS

The School Board shall keep correct and complete books and records of accounts and shall keep minutes of the proceedings of the Board and Executive Committee at the registered or principle office of the School Board. All financial documents of the School Board may be inspected by any Board member, for any purpose, any reasonable time. All financial documents of the School Board shall be audited on an annual basis and reported to the Board.

ARTICLE XI
WAIVER OF NOTICE

Whenever any notice is required to be given to any member of the School Board under the provisions of these By-Laws, under the provisions of the Articles of the Charter, a waiver, thereof in writing, signed by the person or persons entitled to such notice.

ARTICLE XII
ROBERT RULES OF ORDER

In the absence of any By-Laws or statue to the contrary, the procedures described in the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order (Revised) shall be followed at all meetings of the board and committees of this School Board.

CERTIFICATION

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 20__ by vote of _____ for and _____ against.

Chairperson: _____

Vice-Chairperson: _____

Secretary/Treasurer: _____