

HOPI SCHOOL SYSTEM
TRANSITION FACT SHEET & UPDATE #6
MAY 17, 2023
www.hopischoolsystem.org

- **HOPI BOARD OF EDUCATION CANNOT HIRE CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE STAFF OR SIGN ANY CONTRACTS UNTIL AFTER A P.L. 100-297 GRANT IS APPROVED.** Under the Tribally Controlled Schools Act (TCSA), the Hopi Board of Education (HBE) has no legal authority to sign school contracts or hire any staff for the Central Administration Office, until after the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) approves a TCSA grant for the Hopi School System (HSS). This means that HBE cannot sign contracts with attorneys, consultants or employees, and cannot sign bus leases, food service leases, etc. HBE will have the authority to make these decisions only after it becomes a TCSA school board. This is standard protocol for all new school boards and the same process used by every school board that has transitioned into a TCSA governing board.
- **HSS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL.** HBE has approved the Hopi School System Policies and Procedures Manual (Manual). It is available on the HSS website. In Spring 2022, most Hopi school Principals provided their school's policies to the HBE to assist in drafting the Manual. The HBE, in consultation and collaboration with the Transition Team, which includes the Principals, drafted and based the Manual on the Hopi schools' existing policies and procedures. All draft sections of the Manual were also provided to the school Principals for comment, and to distribute to their staff, school boards, parents, community members and stakeholders for input. The Manual was additionally placed on the HSS website for public comment. Training for school staff on the Manual will occur in Summer 2023.
- **TRANSITION HANDBOOK.** HBE has approved a Transition Handbook which explains all major transition steps for the 2023/2024 school year by subject area: curriculum, special education, finance, personnel, transportation, facilities, etc. The Transition Handbook will be sent to all schools and is on the HSS website.
- **BIE RECOMMENDS FUNDING NEW OFFICE FURNITURE, COMPUTERS AND PHONES FOR THE CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE MODULARS.** BIE asked HBE to talk and visit with the schools to determine if the schools had any surplus furniture and equipment that could be used for the Central Administration Office (CAO) modulars. HBE informed BIE that the schools did not have any surplus equipment, and requested BIE fund these needs. In response, BIE has recommended that HBE's request be funded to supply the CAO with new office furniture, computers, laptops, phones, servers, and other equipment for the CAO modulars.
- **CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE MODULARS.** BIE has awarded the Hopi School System three new modular buildings. Construction of these custom-built modulars is complete, and they are awaiting transport to the CAO site. The modulars will be delivered and ready for occupancy by July or August 2023. The modulars cannot be delivered until the HSS P.L. 100-297 grant is approved.
- **CSA HIRED & OTHER EMPLOYMENT/CONTRACTS.** Dr. Rea Goklish (White Mtn. Apache Tribe) has accepted the position of Chief School Administrator for the HSS! HBE is also looking to hire the HSS Finance Director and HSS Attorney. Position description, application and the Attorney RFP can be found on the HSS website (www.hopischoolsystem.org) and/or the Hopi Tribe's HR website (<https://www.hopi-nsn.gov/tribal-services/human-resources/human-resources-forms/>). Please encourage candidates to apply!
- **ADDING HBE MEMBERS.** The Transition Team determined that three (3) candidates who applied to serve on the HBE are eligible for HBE. Their names have been submitted to the Hopi Tribe's Human Resources Office to conduct their background checks. Once background checks are completed, a final decision on their nomination by the Transition Team and appointment by the Hopi Tribal Council will be made.

If you have any questions, please contact HBE through the HSS website above. Askwali and Kwakwa!