

Kirsten Baesler  
State Superintendent



NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF  
**PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

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October 7, 2016

Dave Archambault II, Chairman  
Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council

Dear Chairman Archambault II and Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council

It is in the spirit of collaboration and a sense of concern and support for the children attending the Protectors of the Water school and my obligation to official duty that I write this letter to you today. Chairman Archambault, be assured that my concern is essentially for the educational well-being of students residing at the Sacred Stone Camp.

The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) is ready to assist and work with whomever you designate as you move forward to secure state school approval for the Protectors of the Water school. As you know, both public and nonpublic schools must be state approved as required by NDCC 15.1-06 - Schools. The NDDPI also wishes to assure that the parents of students attending the school are in compliance with compulsory attendance law described in NDCC 15.1-20 – School Attendance.

As you can tell by reading the section of code on school approval, completing the school approval process will likely take considerable time. In the meantime, as one leader to another leader, I request that you ensure parents enroll their students in a state approved school. There are several options available to parents. Since our understanding is that the Protectors of the Water school at the Sacred Stone Camp is located within the boundaries of the Mandan Public School District it would be most proper for students to enroll with Mandan. Mandan is ready and able to enroll students, including coming to a site on or near the camp as designated by you, and once enrolled, Mandan has committed to sending a bus to transport children to and from Mandan schools. Other options may also be available including enrolling students in schools in Fort Yates, Solen and Cannonball.

Chairman Archambault, my greatest concern is for the educational welfare of the children. The NDDPI stands ready to assist you within the scope of our authority and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kirsten Baesler".

Kirsten Baesler  
State Superintendent

Copy: Jesse B.J. McLaughlin, Vice Chairman, Chad Harrison, Charles Walker, Paul Archambault, Mike Faith, Dana Yellow Fat, Kory McLaughlin, James D. Dunn, Caroline Thompson, Joe White Mountain, Jr., Robert Taken Alive, Samuel Ben Harrison, Frank White Bull, Cody Two Bears, Duane Claymore