

# SCUSD Administrators Attend 2017 NAFIS Spring Conference

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Cheryl Mae Haozous

San Carlos Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Dennison and her administrative staff attended the NAFIS Spring Conference in Washington, D.C. NAFIS (National Association of Federally Impacted Schools) is a federally funded program designed to assist and advocate on behalf of Impact Aid Funds for the Military School Districts, Federal Lands School Districts, Indian Lands School Districts and Mid- to Low LOT School Districts students.

This year's theme, "UNCERTAIN FUTURE – IMPACT AID IN THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION" was created to remind us that our future with Impact Aid funding is uncertain with the legislative priorities of the Trump Administration that support School of Choice vouchers. In the FY18 proposed budget, it seeks to cut Non-Defense Discretionary Programs like Impact Aid and replace it with the school vouchers. Other programs affected by these cuts are BIE (Bureau of Indian Education) and the DoD.

The NAFIS conference provided up to date information and tools our school district could use to advocate for Impact Aid funding to Congress and the Administration. The reality of the budget cuts for funding would eliminate many programs we depend on daily for the education and nutritional needs of our students. One of the proposed cuts includes the free meal program which provides our students with free breakfast and lunch during the year and the summer feeding program. It also targets Title I funds which we use for our Apache language teachers in the school district. Other areas such as our special education needs that are increasing every year are also part of the budget cuts.

San Carlos Unified School District would like to recognize and thank San Carlos Apache Tribal Chairman Terry Rambler for his assistance to provide the Mapetsi Policy Group to consult and schedule meetings with Arizona state senators and

representatives on Capitol Hill to assist us as we advocated for Impact Aid funding on behalf our SCUSD students.

Republicans have introduced US HB 610 which is designed to dismantle and take away the public school system.” **This bill repeals the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and limits the authority of the Department of Education (ED) such that ED is authorized only to award block grants to qualified states. ” –US HB610.**

The conference talking points and the Capitol Hill visits set the tone of our planned presentations as critical with a sense of urgency to retain the crucial Impact Aid funds our students receive today. Cuts to this funding could change the way our school district functions today. San Carlos Unified School District depend on 75% of Impact Aid funding to keep our school district functioning and with addressing the needs of our Trauma Informed School direction, every dollar the district receives is needed to improve the quality of the educational system for every student enrolled in our schools.

The talks with our Arizona Senators and Representatives and their legislative staff and directors seemed to end on a positive note as we were assured of their support, along with the assistance from the Debbie Ho and Kate Weinograd of the Metpesi Policy Group, to work with SCUSD and assist our school district with advocating on our behalf to keep Impact Aid dollars available for our students. SCUSD would like to thank Debbie Ho and Kate Weinograd of Metpetsi Policy Group for their assistance and the Capitol Hill schedule we needed to advocate for our students.



Office of Rep. Tom O'Halleran (D-AZ) Evelyn Hinton, Levi Frye, Dr. Dennison, Paul Babbitt-Legislative Staff, Cheryl Haozous



Office of Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ) Dr. Dennison, Norma Salazar-Legislative Director, Cheryl Haozous, Evelyn Hinton and Levi Frye.



Office of Rep. Ruben Gallegos, (D-Az) Evelyn Hinton, Levi Frye, Ruben Gallegos, Dr. Dennison and Cheryl Haozous



Office of Rep. Kyrsten Sinema, (D-Az) Cheryl Haozous, Michael Wong-Legislative Staff, Levi Frye, Dr. Dennison and Evelyn Hinton



Office of Sen. John McCain, Lauren Kennedy- Legislative Staff, Dr. Dennison and Levi Frye



Office of Sen. Jeff Flake, Levi Frye, Dr. Dennison, Flaka Ismaili – Legislative Staff, Evelyn Hinton and Cheryl Haozous