

## **Tac Titooqan Article July 2017**

### **Thunder Garcia**

It is with the greatest pride I celebrate and thank Thunder Garcia for his seven years of dedication on the Lapwai School District Board of Trustees from 2010-2017. Thunder demonstrated caring commitment and active engagement for our improvement during his service. Some of this highlights during his tenure included:

- Overall the Lapwai School District grew 7.5% in student proficiency on the Idaho State Achievement Tests from 2014-2015 to 2015-2016. This is in comparison to only 2.3% average growth statewide.
- Lapwai students are going to college at a higher rate than the state average as well. The state average go-on rate is 53% and the Lapwai School District is well above the state average at 62%. We are one of only 38 Idaho school districts with a go-on rate above 60%. This is out of 115 districts and 48 charters in Idaho.
- In 2013 Lapwai School District's Federal funding was reduced by over \$450,000. These cuts forced our district to attempt two back-to-back unsuccessful supplemental levies creating political turmoil where property taxes primarily burden retired residents on fixed incomes. Thunder played a role in rebuilding the district's fund balance reserve preventing the need for additional assistance from our taxpayers.
- Thunder was a trustee during the demolition of the former Lapwai High School and construction of the new gymnasium, supporting the superintendent through this process.
- Thunder's input led to increased consistency with discipline and policy development for Lapwai Middle-High School. The school now has a clear and shared focus on use of cell phones, athletic eligibility, and other critical procedures for student safety and learning.

On behalf of the staff and students of the Lapwai School District, I would like to thank Thunder for his service and commitment to our success. Qe'ciyew'yew'

### **Baseball Tomorrow Fund**

On behalf of the staff, students and board of trustees for the Lapwai School District, I would like to thank the Baseball Tomorrow Fund for their generous support of \$27,400 to support the return of softball. The Baseball Tomorrow Fund (BTF) is a joint initiative between Major League Baseball and the Major League Baseball Players Association that was established in 1999 through a \$10 million commitment by Major League Baseball and the Major League Baseball Players Association. During the 1999 World Series, Baseball Commissioner Allan H. (Bud) Selig, Players Association Executive Director Donald Fehr and the Baltimore Orioles' Cal Ripken Jr. were on hand to introduce this new grant program for youth baseball and softball.

The mission of BTF is to promote and enhance the growth of youth participation in baseball and softball throughout the world by funding programs, fields, coaches' training, and the purchase

of uniforms and equipment to encourage and maintain youth participation in the game. BTF provides grants to non-profit and tax-exempt organizations in both rural and urban communities. BTF awards an average of 40 grants per year. The average grant amount is approximately \$40,000. BTF is now funded annually by MLB and the Players Association.

Through community and grant support, the return of baseball and softball to the Lapwai School District has been a tremendous success. We would like to thank the Baseball Tomorrow Fund and Cathy Bradley, Executive Director, for their generous support of our student athletes.