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Superintendent Wendell Waukau Named Region III Director of NAFIS Board

Washington, DC – March 25, 2021 – The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) is pleased to announce that Wendell Waukau, Superintendent of Menominee Indian School District (Wisconsin), has been re-elected to the NAFIS Board of Directors. He represents Region III, which includes Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Indiana and Ohio.

As a member of the NAFIS Board of Directors, Waukau serves as a national leader advocating for school districts that receive Impact Aid. In this role, he works with other board members from across the country to guide the association's public policy work and oversee plans for the association.

Impact Aid reimburses school districts for the loss of revenue caused by the presence of nontaxable Federal property, including military installations; Indian Trust, Treaty and Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act lands; Federal low-income housing facilities; and national laboratories and other Federal buildings and property. It helps ensure students who attend schools on or near Federal property have access to a quality education.

"We have a very small tax base in our District," said Waukau. "Impact Aid dollars, although underfunded, helps make up for that lost tax base and gives our District the flexibility to meet educational needs of our students."

Waukau has served as Superintendent at Menominee Indian School District for the past 17 years and has worked in the district for 33 years. He has extensive experience in the education field, having previously served as a principal, dean, athletic director, teacher and coach.

This will be Waukau's third term on the NAFIS Board – he has represented Region III for the past four years.

"The NAFIS Board plays a critical role in ensuring that students in federally impacted school districts have access to the opportunities they need to reach their full potential," said NAFIS Executive Director Hilary Goldmann. "Wendell brings important insight into the needs of these districts, their students and their communities that will help shape NAFIS advocacy, as well as a wealth of experience and ideas from which the association will continue to benefit."

Waukau's term will last for two years.

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The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) represents the 1,100-plus federally impacted public school districts that together educate more than 10 million students across the nation. Federally impacted school districts are those located on or near nontaxable Federal property—including military installations; Indian Trust, Treaty and Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act lands; Federal low income housing facilities; and national parks, national laboratories and other Federal buildings and property. These school districts, which are demographically and geographically diverse, receive Impact Aid, a Federal education program that reimburses school districts for the lost local revenue and additional costs associated with the presence of Federal property. To learn more, visit www.nafisd.org.