Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent
PO Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620-2501
406.444.5643
In-State Toll-free: 1.888.231.9393
TTY Users: 406.444.0235
opi.mt.gov

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
STATE OF MONTANA

Putting Montana Students First

MACIE MEETING
July 14, 2020
Helena, Montana

Morning Session

Members Present

Yancey Beston	Montana Indian School Boards Caucus
Dawn Bishop-Moore	Indian Impact Schools of Montana
Norma Bixby	Northern Cheyenne Tribe
Mary Jo Bremner	Board of Public Education
Jason Cummins	Class 7
Iris Killeagle	Little Shell Tribe
Richard Littlebear	Tribal Colleges
Angela Mclean	Montana University System
Jeremy MacDonald	School Administrators of Montana
Lona Running Wolf	Office of Public Instruction
Voyd St. Pierre	Chippewa Cree Tribe
Jennifer Smith	Urban – Billings

Office of Public Instruction

Elsie Arntzen	Joan Franke
Todd Hanson	Zach Hawkins
Julie Murgel	Don Wetzel
Annette Young	

Guests – University of Providence

Leslie Lott
Thomas Raunig

Members Absent

Joe Arrowtop	Montana Indian Education Association
Rodney Bird	Bureau of Indian Education
Ellie Bundy	Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
Harold Dusty Bull	Blackfeet Tribe
Jordann Forster	Montana Federation of Public Employees
Melissa Hammett	Urban – Missoula
Kaci Wallette	Fort Peck Tribes

The Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education (MACIE) meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m. Roll call was conducted, and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Review of Minutes

The minutes from the May 6, 2020, meeting were reviewed by the members.

Dawn Bishop-Moore motioned to approve the minutes as written and Norma Bixby seconded. Passed by all.

Ex-officio Report

◊ Superintendent office – Elsie Arntzen

Superintendent Arntzen provided the reopening schools document with information on the four scenarios for reopening schools, which were developed after listening sessions. The state will be seeking another waiver regarding assessments for the 2020-21 school year.

There will be work done regarding providing nutrition to students while away from schools.

Jennifer Smith said schools need to be assured they will only be accountable for what they have control over.

◊ Board of Public Education – Mary Jo Bremner

The Board of Public Education (BPE) will have its regular meeting on July 16, which will be a full day as there are numerous items on the agenda to review and take action on. The joint meeting with the Certifications Standards and Practices Advisory Council meeting will be on July 15.

◊ Montana University System – Angela McLean

The ACT will be offered next year to both seniors and juniors. The Regents suspended the need for ACT or SAT for entrance to Montana University System (MUS) units for the next three semesters.

Angela said that hopefully campuses will be reopening and will be getting that information out to students.

There has been a request for proposal for seventh-year service for GEAR UP students on campus.

◊ Tribal Colleges – Dr. Richard Littlebear

Most of the campuses have not been open since March, with learning being conducted through Zoom and other technology platforms.

Little Big Horn College have been conducting summer classes in person but is prepared to switch to virtual learning if COVID cases persist or increase. Everyone must check in and wear masks and the strictest protocols are being enforced. Noon lunches are being provided to students. The college also provided 150 laptops to students and installed internet hotspots across the reservation.

American Indian Education Administrative Reports

◊ Tribal Relations & Resilience Unit – Todd Hanson

This unit consists of Donnie Wetzel as the unit manager, Todd Hanson as SIG school board coach, and the Wraparound Project.

The unit is working with school boards, administrators, students, and the communities to build processes and frameworks that reflect the uniqueness of each community.

◊ American Indian Student Achievement Unit – Lona Running Wolf

This unit, along with the Tribal Relations and Resiliency Unit, will be conducting a research project as data has surfaced indicating the achievement gap is not being reduced and is, in fact, increasing in a small area. There will be focus groups with students, administration, boards of trustees, teachers/paraprofessionals, and parents/community members at several school districts, both on-reservation and urban with a high percentage of Native students. This is to find out what people believe the reason is for not closing the achievement gap and what needs to be done to address those issues. The districts are excited to be participating. A questionnaire will also be going out to all schools that serve American Indian students, which may be filled out by anyone.

The unit is also going to do a study of how districts are spending their achievement gap funding and will provide information on how the districts can use the money more strategically.

◊ Indian Education for All Unit – Zach Hawkins

The unit is doing a video project where elders and youth from the reservations say "We are one" in their native language. This is in response to the George Floyd and other incidents that have been happening around the country.

The unit has lessons that may be done by students without teacher preparation. There is also a place to evaluate a resource to provide feedback on how to improve the information/lesson as necessary.

The unit has planning guides and has been highlighting the Planning Guides – have highlighted *The Framework: A Practical Guide for Montana Teachers and Administrators Implementing Indian Education for All* which gives schools a roadmap for what to do.

University of Providence: Indigenous Inclusion into curriculum - Leslie Lott, Thomas Raunig, Annette Young

The University of Providence presented their curriculum for inclusion of restorative practices and Indian education content. This was developed when the elementary and health and physical education programs were brought back after being eliminated. This curriculum will cover all four years. Juniors and seniors from the old program will also be provided this training as much as possible.

The development of this curriculum was in response to feedback from students during student teaching regarding classroom management and challenges student have outside school time

and how the teachers can provide support. There has been an increase in Montana regarding restorative practices and this is a part of the culture of the college.

The college is seeking input on resources to use for integration along with interacting and hearing the voice of the Native community through speakers.

Language Preservation – Jason Cummins

Jason Cummins presented the updated draft statement regarding use of Native languages in schools. Jason wants to ensure schools realize they need to allow the speaking of Native languages in schools, including by students, parents, and teachers.

There was discussion of what MACIE would be requesting from the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) and BPE and how it would be implemented. Jason said he would like OPI and BPE to engage with tribal officials and provide updates to MACIE on actions taken. Norma Bixby suggested one way to have action would be for the Schools Boards Association to do a resolution through the Indian School Board Caucus. Voyd St. Pierre indicated that federal law regarding tribal consultation is an important way of getting action from schools.

Discussion regarding MACIE's goals and roles would help in this discussion along with the discussions regarding outstanding school recognition and implementation of Indian Education for All requirements for pre-service teachers.

Norma motioned that Todd Hanson do his presentation on the constitution and strategic planning before coming back to the action items. Iris Kill Eagle seconded the motion. Passed by all.

Jason Cummins motioned to adjourn for lunch and Norma Bixby seconded. Passed by all.

Afternoon session

Present

Members Dawn Bishop-Moore, Norma Bixby, Mary Jo Bremner, Jason Cummins, Iris Killeagle, Richard Littlebear, Jeremy MacDonald, Lona Running Wolf, Voyd St. Pierre, Jennifer Smith

Office of Public Instruction Joan Franke, Todd Hanson, Donald Wetzel, Annette Young

MACIE Board Constitution Overview and Strategic Planning

Todd Hanson did a presentation regarding the roles and responsibilities of MACIE within the scope of the Constitution and Bylaws. He provided information on what needs to be clarified to clarify the board's roles, responsibilities, and spear of influence to move issues to OPI and BPE.

Todd recommendations:

- ✓ facilitated strategic planning exercise with the council;
- ✓ establish a goal setting framework within the leadership structure to set priorities for the council in moving issues, toward initiatives and ultimately into actionable outcomes;
- ✓ align the council's governing model (constitution and by-laws) to the operational structure to ensure it guides and supports the goals, objectives, and outcomes; and
- ✓ engage the membership in an organizational visioning exercise to establish the horizon for measurable progress toward innovation, expression, and improved American Indian Student Achievement.

Norma Bixby made a motion to set up a retreat to do strategic planning and update the constitution and by-laws, Dawn Bishop-Moore seconded the motion. It was decided that Jason Cummins would do a poll as to what would be a good time. A vote was conducted and passed by all.

Jennifer Smith said meetings need good representation and commitment to be on time.

Indian Education for All Teacher pre-service

Several members met with Angela McLean to share with her concerns regarding training regarding Indian Education for All (IEFA) to pre-service teachers. It was suggested that maybe the instructors and professors were not adequately prepared so unable to adequately train the pre-service teachers regarding what IEFA should be. Angela said the next avenue for MACIE would be to address to Council of Deans regarding this issue.

Language Statement

This will be held off on until after the Constitution and By-laws are updated so the statements will follow protocol.

A non-agenda discussion happened regarding getting qualified members to the advisory council. This will be continued during the update to the Constitution.

Outstanding School Recommendation – Jeremy MacDonald

A committee meeting was held for recommendations for outstanding schools. A grid was done for areas that nominations could come from. Jeremy MacDonald talked about categories. Send recommendations to Jeremy so the subcommittee could discuss them. Lona Running Wolf will do a press release after decisions on awardees.

Public Comment

None

Next regular MACIE meeting

It was decided to have the next regular meeting on October 7. This is in order to be able to provide the BPE with information on what is discussed and decided at the advisory council meeting instead of having to wait two months as when have the meeting right before the BPE meeting.

Norma Bixby motioned to adjourn the meeting and Dawn Bishop-Moore seconded. Passed by all. The meeting was adjourned at 2:52 p.m.