

Members Present

Dawn Bishop Moore	Indian Impact Schools of Montana
Norma Bixby	Northern Cheyenne Tribe
Marcy Cobell-Gilbert	Urban – Great Falls
Harold Dusty Bull	Blackfeet Tribe
Georgie Gourneau	MEA-MFT
Melissa Hammett	Urban - Missoula
Richard Little Bear	Montana Tribal College Presidents
Angela Mclean	Montana University System
Voyd St. Pierre	Chippewa Cree Tribe
John Salois	School Admins. of Montana
Kaci Walette	Fort Peck Tribe
Jennifer Smith	Urban - Billings
Mary Jo Bremner	Board of Public Education

Guests

Pete Donovan	Board of Public Education
Misty Kuhl	Rocky Mountain College
Michael LaValley	Senator Tester's Office
Jeremy MacDonald	Box Elder Schools
Jason Smith	Governor's Office of Indian Affairs

Office of Public Instruction

Mandy Broaddus	Colet Bartow
Joan Franke	Marissa Franklin
Susie Hedalen	Ashley McGrath
Stephen Morsette	Jennifer Stadum
Don Wetzel	

Members Absent

Yancey Beston	Montana School Boards Association
Charmel Gillin	Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
Leona Kienenberger	Little Shell Tribe

The meeting started at 9:06 with introductions.

Review of Minutes

Harold Dusty Bull motioned to approve the minutes, and Norma Bixby seconded the motion. Passed by all.

Math Task Force – Marissa Franklin

There has been collaboration between divisions at the Office of Public Instruction, teacher professional development, work with higher education, and looking at data to identify needs. The task force has been looking at how many credits should be required for graduation.

The Indian Education for All (IEFA) math lessons have been updated with the new standards. Brooke Taylor will be doing seven lessons for grades 7-12. Lessons need to be changed to have a deeper level such as having students look at a picture and ask what they wonder about it and then giving the information needed to solve problems. Part 2 to IEFA Math will hopefully be out soon on Teacher Learning HUB.

Montana Math Matters has been going the last four years in several regions across the state. Teachers have participated from Hardin, Brockton, Wolf Point, Rocky Boy, and Ronan.

Governor's Office of Indian Affairs – Jason Smith

The Indian Affairs Cabinet, with a member from each executive branch agency, meet monthly. The governor and Jason Smith went to each tribal government for a summit to talk about issues. Although many issues were discussed, there are very few educational issues brought up. In the past 16 years, the Governor's Office has been working to have a better relationship with the tribes. They start from what the tribe has and then build on to that in contracts.

Several of the tribal colleges participate in the apprenticeship program. They are Aaniiih Nakoda College, Fort Peck College, and Stone Child College. Richard Little Bear shared the challenge for Chief Dull Knife College's participation is finding employers to participate in their remote location.

Norma Bixby asked that more than one Indian person be appointed to boards where possible. She is also concerned that in all the years of talk students are still not achieving and there is still a large dropout rate. She suggested the governor convene a summit as having it come from the governor's office would give added emphasis to the problems. Jason Smith indicated that her letter with these recommendations had been received and had been shared with Mandy Smoker Broaddus.

Voyd St. Pierre said transportation was the biggest cut that was received.

Mary Jo Bremner is concerned that the Indian Health Service is not paying nurses who have been trained at the tribal colleges the same as those that graduated from other nursing programs. Jason indicated he would ask the tribal college president organization regarding this. Richard Little Bear indicated they had tried to start a nursing program at Chief Dull Knife College but it was hard to set up clinicals due to distance.

Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education – Angela Mclean

Angela Mclean indicated cuts will have impact on all across the state. There has been a shifting from state responsibility to community responsibility. Angela indicated the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE) will help if there is a summit.

Angela thanked Mandy Smoker Broaddus for her leadership on the American Indian/Minority Achievement (AIMA) Council. Voyd St. Pierre is other AIMA council member. Colleges submitted their implementation plans regarding Indian Education for All (IEFA) in March. These

are on the Web site. There will be professional development for all faculty and staff on campuses on Indian content.

The campuses are working to transfer credits successfully and fully to partner schools.

OCHE has a recruitment and retention survey to provide data and guidance for boards to better develop tools to recruit and retain. If you know someone who would like to take this survey, please contact Angela (amclean@montana.edu) for the link. The office believes the Grow Your Own program will work best for recruitment of licensed teachers. Norma Bixby indicated that the National Advisory Council on Indian Education also has a teacher recruitment program.

The University of Montana law school is working to recruit American Indian students, along with letting people know what they do. They will be at Crow Fair to answer legal questions and point people to where they need to go.

Norma was wondering what happened to the Tracks program for getting information from tribal colleges. The Northwest Labs has signed a memorandum of understanding to get data from tribal colleges.

Rocky Mountain College Native American Outreach and Programming Office – Misty Kuhl

After a decade, Rocky Mountain College now has this Native American Outreach and Programming Office again. Rocky would be happy to help or collaborate if needed. The goal of the program is to increase enrollment of Native American students and keep them in school to completion. Rocky had 27 Native American students during the last year and will have approximately 35 in the upcoming year.

Norma Bixby indicated that the American Indian/Minority Achievement Council recommended having a faculty liaison on each campus who will outreach to the students. Norma, however, thinks there should be a person in every department due to the size of the schools it is hard for one person to do. Misty believes a mentor program would be good.

Jennifer Smith indicated Rocky is trying to increase diversity of its student population and wants IEFA to be done. Jennifer is on council working toward this goal. Jennifer also indicated there is no specific place for Native students to go in Billings so she is doing some of this through the school district.

Michael LaValley indicated MSU Northern is the only school utilizing Little River Institute grant for Native students.

NIES Special Study – Ashley McGrath

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is done every two years and is a state-to-state comparison. It is required for Title I schools to participate in the math and reading assessments for grades 4 and 8. The test takes about 60 minutes to complete. Students take

portions of the test but not the entire test, which is four hours. Since 2017, the math and reading assessments have been done on tablet.

Due to sample size, not all students in bigger schools take the assessment, but do in smaller schools. But not all schools in Montana give the assessment.

The state does not get district, school, or student information. There is no student identifiable information. The information can be disaggregate disaggregated across racial groups.

In 2019, (January 28 – March 8) the state level test will be math and reading in grades 4 & 8. The national level includes science in Grades 4, 8, and 12 and math and reading in grade 12. The science will be done on paper to see if any difference in how students do in comparison to the tablet.

There will also be a special study resuming, which consists of questionnaires for students, teachers, and schools/principal. This is being collected to define a more extensive array of subgroups of the student population, inform educational policy by describing the contexts for learning, and support research into factors that may be related to student achievement.

Schools are selected by NAEP statisticians and are based off enrollment. The more students a school has, the more likely it will be selected. Also, student subgroups are considered so schools with higher American Indian populations or ones that are on reservations are also more likely to be picked. A selection is made across city, suburb, and rural schools. The NAEP test is also given to private and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIE) schools. The Montana BIE schools have participated in the past.

Montana will also be participating in the National Indian Education Special Study, to describe the condition of education for American Indian and Alaska Native students in United States. It has been around since 2005, and is sponsored by the Office of Indian Education. It was originally done every two years and after 2011 it went to four years. Montana did not participated in the last data collection.

This study explores Native culture, identity and academic achievement. There is a technical review panel with Native American teachers. Jeremy McDonald, Box Elder Superintendent, is serving on this panel.

The survey takes students an additional 10-15 minutes. For teachers it is a 20-25 minute survey. The questions are available in advance.

The OPI engaged in a formal tribal consultation regarding this matter, sending out information several months ago. Responses were received from the Northern Cheyenne Tribe and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribes. In addition, Jeremy MacDonald submitted comments.

Jeremy said he learned in 2016 that Montana had originally opted out of this. He feels Montana is key in that it had IEFA first. Ideally would like to see this information to find correlation between teaching of culture and Indian education and the closing of the achievement gap.

There has been concern regarding the over-sampling of the American Indian population and reservation schools participating every other year and then Indian students being held back while others leave for the special survey. This concern has been addressed.

Norma indicated that schools need to get together and analyze the data and determine what needs to be done. If schools are going to participate then they need to take a hard look at the data and use it instead of just putting the report on a shelf.

Eric Meredith has training to dig deeply into the information that can go to school level.

Jeremy indicated that information regarding trends needs to be shared with policy makers. It is making a change on national level.

John Salois made a motion for concur with Montana participating in the NIES study and Dawn Bishop-Moore seconded the motion. passed by all.

Negotiated Rulemaking on Student Assessment Rules – Ashley McGrath

The first meeting will be August 6 and all viewpoints are needed. If anyone wants to participate, the information is on the white flyer handed out.

Temporary adjournment to the capitol for report to the Interim committee on Education.

Indian Education Division Update – Mandy Smoker Broaddus

Michelle Mitchell was introduced as the new Indian Student Achievement Specialist.

Initiatives recently completed or currently being done are science lessons (Jennifer Stadum, Youth conferences in Browning, Pablo, and Havre (Don Wetzel), Montana Proud posters (Stephen Morsette), and Essential Understandings 2.0 (Mike Jetty and Jennifer Stadum).

Mandy Smoker Broaddus will be leaving at the end of the month to take a position at Education Northwest. Her e-mail will be smokerbroaddus@educationnorthwest.org.

This board has a stronger voice than realize. Members need to continue to be best advocates. Norma Bixby indicated that Superintendent Arntzen wants recommendations.

Jennifer Smith thanked the tribal people for coming so urban people can hear input.

Harold Dusty Bull indicated that when the tribe does a resolution to appoint a member to this council, it creates a government-to-government relationship which gives that person authority to speak on behalf of the tribe.

SAMSHA Grant Updates – Stephanie Iron Shooter

The Wraparound program has been funded for another four years through 2021. There are programs at Ft Peck – Brockton, Poplar, Frazer - Northern Cheyenne, Crow – Crow Agency,

Heart Butte, and Fort Belknap – Hays and Harlem. Browning has asked for it. They work with programs that are already in the community.

An introduction of the entire staff was done.

Karla Two Two – Project Coordinator, Billings office
Christina Jackson – Family Engagement Specialist, Billings office
Geraldine Whiteman, Wraparound Facilitator, Lame Deer
Heidi Running Wolf – Wraparound Facilitator, Heart Butte
Jared Smith, Wraparound Facilitator, Frazer
Griffin Ricker – Wraparound Facilitator, Poplar
Miranda Crasco – Wraparound Facilitator, Hays
Nicole Brockie – Wraparound Facilitator, Harlem
Kenny Shane – Wraparound Facilitator, Crow Agency
Linda Gilcrist – Wraparound Coach, Billings office
Crystal Hickman – Wraparound Coach, Billings office

There has been a lot of participation in the program and not a lot of people pushing back and not being supportive.

State-Tribal Education program (STEP) Update

Not done due to presenter being unable to attend.

Input from MACIE Members

Jennifer Smith gave information regarding Indian education in an urban setting.

Norma Bixby believes it should be a mandatory part of higher education for students to take a Native American studies class. The Board of Public Education does go through the college accreditation process and makes sure campuses have Indian studies. However, colleges do need to do more.

Pete Donovan talked about the Class 7 certification process.

Jennifer Smith inquired about the school improvement process and having teams to work with them. She is not sure of the process of what needs to be done if a school is on the list due to graduation rate. Mandy Smoker Broaddus indicated there would be a meeting in August to go over that.

Norma Bixby asked if tribes should be involved in ESSA work.

Harold Dusty Bull indicated the federal 506 goes back to grandparents for participation in federal Indian Education programs. Michelle Mitchell indicated it can go back as the school can get documentation.

Norma indicated the next regional Tribal Education Departments National Assembly (TEDNA) conference would be in Albuquerque. They are doing a Native Youth Community Project with various schools in Montana, which the Northern Cheyenne has one. If a tribe wants to apply TEDNA will write the grant.

Don Wetzel indicated the Montana Behavioral Initiative summer institute will be incorporating tribal values in schools. Don will be doing a banner presentation on this at the conference.

Harold indicated the JOM Modernization Act passed the Senate and is now in the House. There is bipartisan support for this. The main point is to open up head count with a new process through census. The nation conference will be in Nashville November, 2019.

Voyd St. Pierre talked about Impact Aid. At the national conference advocacy is done for all schools. The application process meeting will be July 30-31 in Great Falls to provide hands on assistance for applying. People need to talk to administrators regarding impact aid and what a cut would mean.

Public Comment

Michael LaValley indicated in April May letters were sent to the appropriation subcommittee chair and vice-chair regarding impact aid, Bureau of Indian Education, Trio programs and the importance of education.

The Native Educator Support and Training (NEST) act passed out of committee. This provides for loan forgiveness for native teachers or who will teach in native schools. Support is needed so get in contact with senators.

Jennifer Smith moved to close the meeting, and Norma Bixby seconded. Passed by all.

____signed_by Dawn Bishop-Moore_____

Approved November 8, 2018