



MACIE MEETING
October 7, 2020
Helena, Montana

Morning Session

Members Present

Joe Arrowtop	Montana Indian Education Association
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
Ellie Bundy	Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
Jason Cummins	Class 7
Jordann Forster	Montana Federation of Public Employees
Melissa Hammett	Urban – Missoula
Iris Killeagle	Little Shell Tribe
Richard Littlebear	Tribal Colleges
Jeannie Origbo (alternate)	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

Sharyl Allen	Joan Franke
Todd Hanson	Zach Hawkins
Don Wetzel	
Annette Young	

Guests

Pete Donovan	Board of Public Education
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Members Absent

Rodney Bird	Bureau of Indian Education
Harold Dusty Bull	Blackfeet Tribe
Angela McLean	Montana University System
Kaci Walette	Fort Peck Tribes

The meeting of the Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education (MACIE) was called to order by Chairperson Jennifer Smith at 9:02 a.m. Attendance was taken and the Pledge of Allegiance said.

Minutes

The minutes were reviewed by the members. Voyd St. Pierre motioned to accept the minutes as written and Jordann Forster seconded. Passed by all.

Ex-officio Reports

◇ Superintendent Report – by Sharyl Allen

Deputy Superintendent Allen highlighted items on the report. Several teachers had taken advantage of the extended time for licensure/renewal. The Board of Public Education (BPE) approved the continuation of accreditation status for schools. There have been a few new grants received for health and wellbeing.

There is discussion regarding the 2020-21 report card on whether to use attendance as an indicator for schools being identified for targeted status. There is a possibility that alternate assessments may be used for accountability. The Office of Public Instruction (OPI) does not want to use bad data. Decisions will happen in the next several months.

◇ Board of Public Education – Mary Jo Bremner and Pete Donovan

Jessie Barnhardt has retired from the BPE and Sharon Carroll, who is a former member, has replaced him. The next meeting is November 5.

The Council of Deans of Higher Education are meeting this afternoon. Tomorrow, the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council (CSPAC) is meeting in the morning and then in the afternoon there is a joint meeting with the Deans of Education.

The Council of Deans are from the public, private, and tribal schools that prepare individuals to be teachers. They discuss issues regarding teacher preparation, including standards and testing. Review of the educator preparation standards will be coming up, which will be coordinated through Dr. Linda Peterson of OPI.

At the last BPE meeting MACIE was reauthorized.

◇ Montana University System – Jeannie Origbo

Ms. Origbo provided a link highlighting what the Montana University System (MUS) did for American Indian Heritage Day. <https://www.ypradio.org/tribal-affairs/2020-09-28/montana-universities-celebrate-native-american-heritage-day>

College Application Week has been expanded to two weeks. [Apply Montana](#), an application for the MUS, has been rolled out. Applying to MUS schools will remain free for Montana residents throughout the year.

The Talent Search Program is celebrating the third year of First Generation Day, November 9. They will share stories on social media of the stories of first generation college students.

GEAR-UP week was the last week of September. They have started a pilot for seventh year services for students coming from GEAR UP cohort schools for services at University of

Montana Missoula, Montana State University Bozeman, Montana State University Billings, Salish Kootenai College, and Flathead Valley Community College.

◇ Tribal Colleges – Dr. Richard Littlebear

The yearly conference for students has been rescheduled to occur in Albuquerque, March 2022.

Carol Falcon Chandler from Aaniiih Nakoda College has retired and Sean Chandler has taken over as president.

The Montana Tribal College Association is chaired by Dr. Sandra Boham.

Chief Dull Knife had a successful summer session of eight weeks but will not be having spring session because of spike in COVID cases. They will be helping faculty learn about distance delivery.

American Indian Unit Reports

◇ Tribal Relations and Resiliency Unit – Don Wetzel

The Guidance for Facilitating Local Educational Agency Requests for Effective Tribal Consultation draft was provided. This has been sent out internally at OPI and have received feedback. There have been more discussions on how to better inform internally at OPI. This document will have frequent changes when have input from tribes and MACIE.

Mr. Wetzel has been working with Linda Peterson and attended a Council of Deans meeting and how to better implement IEFA.

This unit also works with systems of care and this has been difficult this past month. The unit has been working with support systems to help youth regarding mental health and social interactions that a school brings. There have been in discussions regarding the digital divide, technical issues of support, funding for COVID being spent. Tribal consultation is currently on hold. Have had discussions at Rocky Boy with Jeremy MacDonald, Voyd St. Pierre, and some of the tribal representatives regarding tribal self-identity, language, and wellness within the school systems.

Will be working to develop relationships with the tribes but keeping focus on the students.

◇ Indian Student Achievement Unit – Lona Running Wolf

The American Indian Student Achievement Report was reviewed. This will be finalized and posted on the website at the end of October/ beginning of November. There is difference in the data from this year to last year and will determine why that is. It may be because now using any student that identifies as an Indian for the data instead of just those who are only American Indian.

The research project was done as the achievement isn't improving and the gap not decreasing. OPI does not have preliminary data but will present that at the next MACIE meeting. It appears that mental health and trauma are the biggest factors impacting no change. There will be a survey created to go out to all districts serving American Indian students.

There are only two questions on the annual report regarding the achievement gap funding and how schools are spending the funding. There may be some confusion on the part of the schools between achievement gap funding and IEFA funding. A lot of the achievement gap funding is being spent on field trips, general curriculum materials, and supplies. Once the research project is completed the entire achievement gap report will be sent out and will provide support on how to spend achievement gap funding, through development of systems for achievement gap issues.

Only two districts applied for the Language immersion grant. The Unit will be helping districts develop immersion programs.

There is School Improvement Grant (SIG) money left over so this will be sent out to districts with a graduation rate equal to or less than 65% so they may increase the graduation rate.

Jennifer Smith is concerned that the AA perspective has not been received through the research project. The focus groups will help with formulation of interview questions and the survey questions.

◇ Indian Education for All Unit – Zach Hawkins

The unit is in the midst of doing the webinar series Unpacking the Essential Understandings Regarding Montana Indians. Three have been done already. Jordann Forster and Miranda Murray have been the lead instructors. A short survey is done by participants who are requesting renewal units.

Looking for ways to have other video professional development in lieu of Best Practices.

Mike Jetty has been working with the Big Sky Film Institute and Humanities Montana on their projects. The American Indian film makers works with schools to sign up to view films and then have a follow-up session with the filmmaker and the institute to discuss the film. Last year 56 schools participated.

On American Indian Heritage Day there was a short virtual program with an honor song by Mike Jetty and and Shane Doyle and video from Madison Buffalo Jump.

There is also a [We Are One project](#) of youth and elders sharing messages of the indigenous perspective of unity.

Strategic Planning – Todd Hanson

Todd Hanson reviewed the goals as currently in the MACIE Constitution with the need to update to better reflect the MACIE vision (purpose) that are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and timely (SMART).

Mr. Hanson recommended that the goals be pulled out of the governing document and made a living document to be revisited every year.

The purpose of the advisory council is to advise the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the BPE; promote equal educational opportunities; improve the quality of education to American Indian students; advise, monitor, evaluate, and advocate for the Implementation of IEFA; and carry out those goals and responsibilities.

From the input from the members of the council regarding areas of concern. These were grouped into four categories.

1. Community, family, and parental engagement with local school systems
2. School programs targeting systemic racism, disparate discipline, student achievement, historical trauma
3. Culture, language, culturally relevant curriculum
4. Equitable access to virtual teaching-learning platforms and connectivity

Based on these concerns, four possible goals were crafted for consideration.

Possible goal 1 – MACIE will advocate for and alongside communities, families, parents, and school systems that serve Native American/American Indian (NA/AI) student populations with the intent of promoting efforts to ensure safe, secure, and stable educational environments where students and parents feel welcome and supported.

Possible goal 2 – MACIE will encourage the adoption of school-based programming which addresses the presence of system racism and the associated disparate discipline of NA/AI students in public schools, with the intent of supporting efforts focused on exploring the impact that these conditions have upon student achievement.

Possible goal 3 – MACIE will act as an advocate for the meaningful integration of culture and indigenous language in Montana schools by promoting the adoption of culturally-relevant curriculum and instruction in support of the expression of NA/AI student self-identity and self-actualization.

Possible goal 4: MACIE supports community programs that are focused on providing equitable access for NA/AI students to technological resources and internet connectivity within rural communities and school systems in response to the growing demand for the integration of virtual teaching and learning.

Discussion regarding each possible goal was done, which was positive for each that would do what MACIE wants to accomplish.

Recommendations for goal changes did not change anything for communication, collaboration, and advocacy except for the recommendation to identify and define alignments with SMART guidelines. It is the same recommendation for the third goal of legislative, fiscal, and policy advocacy.

Mr. Hanson provided possible implementation strategies, actions, and progress monitoring regarding each potential goal. He said monitoring progression toward goal needs to be done to verify effectiveness of the council with the strategic partners.

These goals will be mailed out to the MACIE members to make comments for reviewing (and possible adoption) at the next meeting.

Afternoon Session
1:01 p.m.

Present

Members Joe Arrowtop, Yancey Beston, Dawn Bishop-Moore, Norma Bixby, Mary Jo Bremner, Jason Cummins, Jordann Forster, Melissa Hammett, Richard Littlebear, Jeremy MacDonald, Jeannie Origbo, Lonna Running Wolf, Voyd St. Pierre, Jennifer Smith

OPI Joan Franke, Mike Jetty, Julie Murgel, Don Wetzel, Annette Young

Guests Pete Donovan

MACIE Outstanding Achievement – Jeremy MacDonald

MACIE is looking to highlight good things individuals, school districts, and organizations are doing for student achievement. Mr. MacDonald suggested during this time it would be good to highlight how people are coming together to deal with the COVID outbreak.

It was decided that the award should be tangible, such as a plaque or certificate that is framed. Lona Running Wolf said she would do a media shoutout and put it on the website.

Questions that need to be answered are how to advertise the award, who can nominate and how to seek nominations (suggestion MACIE members now and go from there), how often present awards (suggestion: monthly), process for selecting recipients, limits to the number presented during a period of time, specific requirements, including categories, for the award, and how to notify the person(s) of receiving the award. A suggestion was to do the awards geographically, dividing the state into three-four areas.

Lona Running Wolf and Joan Franke will do up a form and will then send out for comments.

Class Certification Processes from Tribes – Mike Jetty and Pete Donovan

Updated processes on how each tribe will certify teachers for Class 7 have been received. However, none of the tribes have provided processes for recertification of the license, so the general process of licensees needing 60 renewal units is in effect.

There was discussion about Class 7 teachers not having four-year teacher training and how to help the license holders on this, professional development for licensees, and having to go back to the tribal designee when renewing.

Edward “Buster” Moore, Jr. who teaches the language, history, and culture of the Nakoda people at Hays-Lodge Pole schools, gave his experience in getting a Class 7 teacher certificate.

Norma Bixby made a motion for OPI to review the present licensing and renewal process for Class 7 certification and further to involve the MACIE committee members who are native language speakers or Class 7 specialists in that discussion. Dawn Bishop-Moore seconded.

Passed by all.

Joe Arrowtop made a motion for OPI to offer professional development opportunities to Class 7 teachers, including technology and virtual learning, to assist in the renewal process, Dawn Bishop-Moore seconded.

Jordann Forster asked what would be the next steps if OPI says don't have the professional development. Would OPI be able to buy what the tribes have? Jennifer Smith indicated MACIE could offer guidance on what would be appropriate.

Mr. Arrowtop stated he doesn't want this mandated into certification process. Ms. Smith indicated that may need to contact tribes to help with the development of the professional development.

Mr. Arrowtop updated his motion for MACIE to request OPI create or expand professional development opportunities specific to Class 7 licensed specialists and consult with the tribes in doing so. Dawn Bishop-Moore seconded.

Passed by all.

Public Comment

No additional comments.

Next meeting

It was decided that the next meeting would be Wednesday, December 9.

If you have agenda items, let Lona Running Wolf know.

Jeremy MacDonald made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Jordann Forster seconded.
Passed by all.

Meeting adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

Approved December 9, 2020