



MACIE MEETING  
May 6, 2020  
Helena, Montana

Morning Session

Members Present

Joe Arrowtop	Montana Indian Education Association
Dawn Bishop-Moore	Indian Impact Schools of Montana
Norma Bixby	Northern Cheyenne Tribe
Mary Jo Bremner	Board of Public Education
Marcy Cobell	Urban – Great Falls
Jason Cummins	Class 7
Jordann Forster	Montana Federation of Public Employees
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
Viola Wood	Tribal Head Start

Office of Public Instruction

Elsie Arntzen	Leo Davis
Joan Franke	Todd Hanson
Zach Hawkins	Mike Jetty
Dan McGee	Julie Murgel
Don Wetzel	Annette Young

Members Absent

Yancey Beston	Montana Indian School Boards Caucus
Harold Dusty Bull	Blackfeet Tribe
Melissa Hammett	Urban – Missoula
Kaci Walette	Fort Peck Tribes

Guests

Pat Armstrong	Browning Public Schools
Mandy Smoker	Education Northwest
Broaddus	Board of Public Education
Pete Donovan	Heart Butte K-12 Schools
Mike Tatsey	National Indian Education Association
Judi Urquhart	

The Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education (MACIE) meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jennifer Smith at 9:09 a.m. A roll call of members was done and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

## Review of Minutes

The minutes were reviewed by the members.

Voyd St. Pierre moved the minutes be approved as written. This was seconded by Dawn Bishop-Moore. Passed by all.

## Ex-officio reports

### ◇ Superintendent office – Elsie Arntzen

Superintendent Arntzen discussed the opening of schools now that phased reopening is happening. Some smaller schools will be opening for onsite teaching.

The Montana Learn Taskforce application will be posted to the website today. This taskforce will work on what schools will look like when they open and what happens if Covid-19 peaks again.

Funding will go out to schools to address issues regarding the pandemic. Although schools will provide information on what they will use the funding for, this will be fluid and schools will not be held to actually spending funding on what is in the plan submitted.

It is teacher appreciation week.

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

The regular meeting will be tomorrow via Skype. Pete Donovan gave an overview of the agenda.

There will be a one-year extension of Class 5 provisional licensure for taking the Praxis test.

### ◇ Montana University System – Angela McLean

The statewide ACT assessment for this year's juniors would be moved to October. Although the necessity for an ACT/SAT is not being waived for admission, other items, such as GPA in math and other curricular areas, will be considered. The plan is for university system units to be open in the fall and this is being stressed by all programs such as GEAR UP and Educational Talent Search. College signing week was virtual this year.

All American Indian Success programs have a single point of contact and follow up to students to ensure they have the necessary resources for finishing the school year.

There will be a presentation regarding the portal for higher education at the Board of Public Education (BPE) regarding growing access to post-secondary education across the state. The portal will help students explore careers and campuses. In September there will be one application for applying to all schools in the Montana University System.

Angela reviewed the [American Indian Student Success Dashboard](#).

◇ Tribal Head Start – Viola Wood

There have been challenges in getting food to the students while the head starts have been closed. There is also the challenge of getting parental involvement in student learning. At Fort Peck there have been partnerships with the commodity food and buffalo food programs.

◇ Tribal Colleges – Dr. Richard Littlebear

Dr. Richard Littlebear indicated that most colleges haven't met except by electronic delivery since March 17. There have been connectivity issues at Chief Dull Knife College which are probably the same for all the colleges. The meeting in Albuquerque was postponed.

American Indian Education Administrative Reports

◇ Tribal, Family, and Community Unit – Don Wetzel

Over the past several weeks, Don Wetzel has been in contact with tribal leaders, school leaders, and students. The current focus has been on wellness. There is a lack of support at home and students need a safe place to go.

Don has been trying to get the tribal voice to the table and how to support school boards across the state. He wants to be outreach to OPI division leaders and get elder inclusion support in the OPI programs.

◇ Indian Student Achievement Unit – Lona Running Wolf

Lona Running Wolf presented a draft framework that was used in Heart Butte and hope to use across the state, both on and off the reservation. Heart Butte is moving out of comprehensive support.

For student success schools must focus on the whole child and include cultural and emotional curriculum.

Lona hopes to have a plan for what the Indian Student Achievement Unit will be doing going forward by the next MACIE meeting.

◇ Indian Education for All Unit – Zach Hawkins

The unit plans on having presentations at the Fall Educator Conference in Great Falls. There will be a session by the Montana Traditional Games Society.

There has been a huge influx of people taking the Indian Education for All (IEFA) Hub courses.

Unit staff have been developing lessons for students that do not need teacher preparation.

Zach presented the Framework model for IEFA support and implementation of Montana districts based on demographic considerations. This would allow IEFA to be more focused at schools on or near reservations and in urban settings where there would be more resources available.

There was discussion that teacher education programs need to have preparation that includes cultural trauma information. There also needs to be strengthening of student tribal identity. Angela McLean indicated that all teachers at the university system do take professional development regarding IEFA.

### Informational Presentations

◇ Driving Outcomes for American Indian Students Through the Sig Model – Superintendent Mike Tatsey (Heart Butte), Dan McGee, Todd Hanson, Leo Davis, Pat Armstrong (Browning Public Schools)

Heart Butte is in the fifth year of the School Improvement Grant (SIG). A framework has been developed that drives what is done at the school. This framework mirrors the community. The framework includes health & wellbeing, safety, and self-identity & culture. These three items need to happen before the fourth part, Instruction, can happen. Heart Butte has come out of the bottom five percent of schools in Montana based on this framework. Each section of the framework has a committee which developed a goal and action plan with a timeline for completion. The committees meeting weekly or bi-weekly.

Dan McGee is the transformational leader under SIG. He helps the district implement routines and practices. He also helps with data and ensuring an appropriate testing environment.

Todd Hanson has been school board coach. He assists the school boards so they have a better idea of their role as leaders in impacting student achievement. He has helped to create an indigenous-focused policy manual which complements the regular policy manual for school boards. Todd attends all board meetings and the members lean on him regarding policy and state law.

Heart Butte has an alternative high school for those students identified as high risk of dropout. There are referrals from teachers and administrators. Parents also may request placement. There is direct instruction on three days with project based work on Monday and Friday. There are currently two staff members. There may be an increase with a math instructional aid.

◇ National Indian Education Association Grant – Montana Native Veterans curriculum – Mike Jetty and Judi Urquhart.

The National Indian Education Association (NIEA) and Library of Congress are writing a social and economic development grant proposal to the Administration for Native Americans, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This grant would be for collecting oral histories, artifacts, and stories of Native veterans in Montana for the purpose of writing curriculum that

would be part of the IEFA curriculum base. Judi Urquhart asked that MACIE members work as liaisons to find veterans who would be willing to share stories and artifacts and also be willing to have those stories be part of the curriculum of teaching with primary sources. She is also asking for a letter of support. Once the stories are recorded NIEA would also like help in finding educators to write the curriculum. There would be funding provided for work through the grant. This grant proposal is due in July. The grant period would be three years. The collection of stories and curriculum writing would be done in the first 24 months and then roll out and test the curriculum in the next year.

Jordann Forster motioned that MACIE write a letter of support for this NIEA grant work through Warrior Spirit. Norma Bixby seconded the motion.

Jason Cummins said MACIE should support it but that the project should make sure to differentiate our own Native American, warrior, views which isn't always the mainstream view. Judi indicated this will be from a Native American perspective with tribal consultation throughout the grant. This is part of the grant requirements.

Jeremy MacDonald asked for what questions would be asked the veterans and guidelines for the letter writing. Judi will get this information to Mike for distribution.

The more letters of support and tribal resolutions that can be included in the grant application, the stronger it will be for funding.

Jordann Forster amended her motion that collectively MACIE is in favor of writing a letter of support for the NIEA grants with the contingency that those who are interested will meet and collectively decide what the letter says. Norma Bixby seconded the amendment. No further discussion was provided. Passed by all.

#### Afternoon Session

No longer in attendance:

Members: Angela McLean, Voyd St. Pierre

OPI Employees: Elsie Arntzen, Leo Davis, Mike Jetty, Dan McGee

Guests: Mandy Smoker Broaddus, Mike Tatsey, Judi Urquhart

#### Old Business

◇ Language Preservation Act Statement and Celebration Planning – Discussion & Possible Action

There was discussion regarding a MACIE statement regarding Native language use in schools. Members expressed the need for the statement to be both encouraging and also a statement that federal and state laws prohibit the suppression of Native language use. It is our place to support the revitalization of language.

Todd Hanson said it is possible for districts to write into policy that they recognize and protect the use of Native languages in the local school.

Jason Cummins asked about informational pamphlets from OPI to give out regarding this.

Jennifer Smith asked what MACIE would be asking The Office of Public Instruction (OPI) and BPE to do. Mary Jo Bremner gave a brief overview of what needs to happen for BPE adoption of changes. Jennifer will send an email to Pete Donovan and Elsie Arntzen to inquire of the steps to take for presentation and adoption of language by BPE.

Jason indicated he believes a statement will help communities that are trying to do revitalization work and tying it to laws and policies already in place.

Jordann Forster made a motion for MACIE to develop a statement in support of efforts to move forward with language preservation revitalization and protection. Dawn Bishop-Moore seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Some points were:

- If IEFA is being done with fidelity there would be language support.
- Need to said culture and language in the school
- Being able to have leverage with documentation in implementing language and culture is needed

Pete Donovan indicated one thing BPE does on special occasions is ability to adopt resolutions. This would be one option to consider to build on what is in Class 7 and reinforce that.

A vote was held. Passed by all.

The committee was formed. Jason Cummins, Pat Armstrong, Lona Running Wolf, Marcy Cobell, Zach Hawkins

#### ◇ Indian Education for All Implementation for Pre-Service Teachers

Some of the university system schools are starting to do this, but student teachers are being told they need to do an IEFA lesson so not being given appropriate background and are being told that IEFA is a lesson. There needs to be better understanding from the instructors at the university level that it is a journey for historic and contemporary background. Another concern is for teachers on or near reservations, how much information is being presented regarding other tribes.

Jordann Forster wrote the draft. This would be a letter to the university system to be an advocate for pre-service teachers. She is concerned that pre-service teachers are not receiving the tools to navigate the resources that are provided. Looking for strategic planning on behalf of the university system to better prepare the teachers to infuse IEFA throughout the curriculum and year and throughout a student's entire K-12 experience.

Jordann is asking for support in the developmental stages so eventually this letter can go out to the university system to encourage them to develop a strategic plan of how they are furthering the advancement of pre-service teachers in this area and then once they return that strategic

plan to MACIE that could open the door to say that plan is great, this also is available, or we would suggest other items be added.

All teachers need to be teaching IEFA, not just on the reservation. All new people being licensed in the state need to take the IEFA 101 HUB course. It would be good for the college teachers to understand the Framework regarding IEFA.

Mary Jo Bremner indicated that for university system units when getting accredited they are careful to write IEFA in accreditation standards they are teaching in each class. When they are evaluated and if there is a lack regarding what is included, they are called on that. So this is in their curriculum, it is just implementation. The how it is going to be implemented needs to be addressed.

Jason Cummins indicated there are principals who knowingly and intentionally ignore IEFA and encourage their staff to do so.

The university system needs to provide their instructors with IEFA training.

Annette Young indicated that through the work with University of Providence in restarting their elementary education teacher preparation program that a template for integrating restorative practices in teacher preparation programs will be developed.

The Montana School Board Association has been having conversations with colleges on trying to get teachers prepared on how to teach Native students. They have summer symposiums regarding how to use IEFA funds so it is used productively.

Norma Bixby made a motion to convene a group to revise draft to develop a statement for MACIE to approve to forward it to the Board of Public Education. Jason Cummins seconded the motion. A vote was taken and it was passed by all.

The group will consist of Jordann Forster, Jeremy MacDonald, Zach Hawkins, Marcy Cobell, Jason Cummins, Don Wetzel, and Jennifer Smith.

### New Business

#### ◇ Outstanding Schools Recognition Process and Procedures

Previously MACIE discussed developing a protocol for recognizing schools of excellence. Lona Running Wolf hoped it would be a regular item on the agenda and bring in media to get the information out to the public.

Suggestions are:

- schools that are recognized to do a video that can be shared on the Indian Education website. This would allow the schools to showcase themselves.
- Plague

- Competition
- Need to develop criteria of qualitative evidence such as using trauma informed or use of data

Team: Jennifer Smith, Don Wetzel, Lona Running Wolf, Jeremy MacDonald, Marcy Cobell, Zach Hawkins, Jordann Lankford

◇ MACIE Constitution Overview and Strategic Planning

It was decided that MACIE members should review the Constitution and Bylaws regarding the goals and there would be further discussion regarding it's updating.

Public Comment

There was no public comment provided.

Next Regular Board Meeting

It was decided to have the next meeting on Tuesday, July 14, starting at 9:00 a.m. The next BPE meeting is July 15-17. Agenda items will include goals and objectives for the constitution, language preservation act statement, IEFA Implementation for pre-service teachers letter, and outstanding schools recognition process and procedures.

Lona Running Wolf asked about informational presentation and it was decided that informational presentations should be limited for the agenda.

Norma Bixby motioned to adjourn the meeting and Marcy Cobell seconded the motion. Passed by all.

The meeting was adjourned t 3:32 p.m.

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Approved July 14, 2020