



MACIE MEETING
February 10, 2021
Approved Minutes
Morning Session

Members Present

Joe Arrowtop	Montana Indian Education Association
Dawn Bishop-Moore	Indian Impact Schools of Montana
Norma Bixby	Northern Cheyenne Tribe
Jason Cummins	Class 7
Michael Dolson (Alternate)	Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
Harold Dusty Bull	Blackfeet Tribe
Megan Gourneau	Fort Peck Tribes
Jordann Forster	Montana Federation of Public Employees
Melissa Hammett	Urban – Missoula
Iris Killeagle	Little Shell Tribe
Angela McLean	Montana University System
Lona Running Wolf	Office of Public Instruction
Voyd St. Pierre	Chippewa Cree Tribe
Jennifer Smith	Urban – Billings

Office of Public Instruction

Pat Armstrong	Joan Franke
Sage Golisano	Tauzha Grantham
Todd Hanson	Zach Hawkins
Stephanie Iron Shooter	
Christine Jackson	Mike Jetty
Julie Murgel	Sarah Swanson
Don Wetzel	
<u>Guests</u>	
Ethan Blount	Mary Jo Bremner
Josh Bushman	Josh Fettig
Katriel Hamilton	Antone Manning
Riley Werk	
<u>Members Absent</u>	
Yancey Beston	Montana Indian School Boards Caucus
Rodney Bird	Bureau of Indian Education
Ellie Bundy	Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
Richard Littlebear	Tribal Colleges
Jeremy MacDonald	School Administrators of Montana

The Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education meeting was called to order at 9:03 by Chairperson Jennifer Smith. The Pledge of Allegiance was done, and roll call was taken. New members were introduced (throughout meeting when able to attend), and prior members – Mary Jo Bremner, Marcy Cobell, and Kaci Wallette – were honored.

Ex-Officio Reports

- Superintendent Office

Sarah Swanson, Chief of Staff, gave the report for the Superintendent. She provided information regarding new staff. The State of Education speech that will be delivered on

Thursday. The legislative priorities of the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) are making sure base aid inflationary increase is fully funded (HB15), adding special education as a component for base aid inflationary increase (HB46), funding education for students in residential treatment (HB25, HB206), moving broadband for Montana e-grants program back to OPI from the Department of Commerce (HB181). OPI is also supporting bills on Career and Technical Education. OPI meets weekly with the tribal education caucus.

An overview of Senate Bill 40 from 2019 which required OPI to develop a photo repository of students was given.

The OPI is working on updating accreditation (Chapter 55), licensure (Chapter 57), and professional educator preparation programs (58).

Montana ESSA plan has work ongoing regarding targeted support and identification. An amendment was presented to the federal government which develops an exit criteria for comprehensive support and involvement for small schools. A strategic assessment waiver has also been submitted.

There is guidance regarding COVID-19 relief to schools. New funding, once the legislature appropriates it out to OPI, will be distributed to schools.

Browning and Crow Agency were awarded Indian Language Immersion Grants. Graduation boost grants were given to Brockton Browning, Lame Deer, Lodge Grass, Rocky Boy, and Wolf Point to improve and sustain graduation rates.

There will not be an Indian Education for All (IEFA) Rotunda Day this year.

Jason Cummins said a lot of the improvement efforts do not generally address culturally responsive teaching, nor do they address the root causes of the achievement gap.

➤ Montana University System – Angela McLean

The central application for applying to units in the University system has been launched for all Montana residents at no cost.

The i-graduate Montana application has been opened and is on the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE) website.

Two by two partnerships between University System schools and tribal schools is in place.

Minutes

The minutes of the December 9, 2020, meeting were reviewed. Jordann Forster motioned to approve the minutes as approved, and Norma Bixby seconded the motion. Passed by all.

Indian Education Reports

- Tribal Relations and Resiliency Unit – Don Wetzel

The unit has been busy presenting regarding tribal consultation and working with schools, students, and tribes.

- American Indian Student Achievement – Pat Armstrong

Pat Armstrong gave a report on the Indian Language Immersion Program grant. There are two schools that are currently receiving this, Browning Public Schools (\$29,650) and Crow Agency School (\$18,819). Fifty percent of the content must be taught in the Native language. Any school district whose population is at least ten percent American Indian would be able to apply for this grant.

Jason Cummins indicated that students who are in the immersion classroom the English Literacy scores are 27% higher than those in the English only classrooms. Pat Armstrong indicated that in Browning those in the dual language classrooms were the only ones who tested out of being limited English proficient.

Megan Gourneau asked about cultural curriculum as this. Mr. Armstrong talked about Heart Butte's social-emotional framework. Other cultural programs that were discussed were Browning (Matthew Johnson), Heart Butte (Shannon Augare), and Great Falls (Jordann Forster).

- Indian Education for All Unit – Zach Hawkins

Zach Hawkins talked about the grants to schools and getting money to schools on and near reservations so they would be able to develop tribally specific curriculum and initiatives that would become sustainable. The Indian Education for All (IEFA) Unit would ask MACIE on who is able to do that and also let schools know about this grant opportunity. IEFA in reservation schools does need to include information on other tribes besides the local tribe.

Jennifer Smith asked about Rotunda Day and asked if the IEFA unit would like a statement from MACIE. Mr. Hawkins indicated that advocating for having a Rotunda Day of some sort would be appreciated. Chairperson Smith said MACIE members should send her anything that want to add to the statement to her.

Informational Presentation

- Youth Advisory Council Updates (after Tribal Relations and Resiliency Unit presentation)

Riley Werk from Fort Belknap and students (Ethan Blount, Josh Bushman, Josh Fettig, Katriel Hamilton, Antone Manning) from Nakona Dakota Oyate (Fort Peck). Represented the state youth advisory team and their particular councils. They talked about what they are doing to get youth to become leaders and how to help students and others during COVID-19.

Lunch break was taken at 11:50.

Afternoon Session

In attendance: (members) Joe Arrowtop, Dawn Bishop-Moore, Norma Bixby, Dugan Coburn, Jason Cummins, Michael Dolson, Harold Dusty Bull, Jordann Forster, Megan Gourneau, Melissa Hammett, Iris Kill Eagle, Jennifer Smith, Lona Running Wolf; (OPI) Pat Armstrong, Joan Franke, Todd Hanson; (guests) Mary Jo Bremner

Old Business

➤ Operational Supports – Todd Hanson

Todd Hanson operational supports regarding strategic practice, specifically regarding how to operationalize the guiding principles and the draft goals. reviewed the draft goals that have been developed. Mr. Hanson's recommendation based on training already provided is the council have formal action to immediately adopt these goals and mobilize the strategic partners in response to those goals.

Jordann Forster motioned for MACIE adopt the strategic practice of organizing and guiding principles that file into the goals that have previously been discussed. Megan Gourneau seconded the motion. Passed by all.

Goal 1: MACIE will advocate for and alongside communities, families, parents, and school systems that serve NA/AI student populations with the intent of recognizing the impact of historical trauma while promoting efforts to ensure safe, secure, and stable educational environments where students and parents feel welcome and supported.

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

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.

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.

➤ Language Committee Statement Update – Jason Cummins

The law firm (Rosette) is working on a legal summary concerning the protection of indigenous languages in public schools, covering both federal and state laws. Dr. Cummins had reached out

to tribal representatives to find out tribal language protections. Some have the protection and some only have allowances for the Class 7. As soon as the summary is done, Jason Cummins will send it out to MACIE members.

The other MACIE members on the committee are Jeremy MacDonald and Lona Running Wolf. OPI support staff are Todd Hanson, Pat Armstrong, and Don Wetzel.

New Business

➤ Election of Officers

Chairperson Smith called for nominations for vice-chairperson, the position of which is currently vacant.

Joe Arrowtop nominated Jason Cummins. Dugan Coburn nominated Jordann Forster. Ms. Forster rescinded her nomination.

Joe Arrowtop moved that nominations be closed.

Jordann moved to have Jason Cummins elected as vice-president and Dugan Coburn seconded the motion. Jason Cummins was elected by all.

Chairperson Smith asked for nominations for secretary.

Iris Kill Eagle nominated Dawn Bishop-Moore and Norma Bixby seconded

Norma Bixby moved that nominations be closed. Dawn Bishop-Moore was elected by all.

➤ Research Project

Lona Running Wolf stated the first part of the research project is completed and two reports have been written, the full version and the ten-page summary. She asked that MACIE members read the reports and let her know any questions that would need to be asked during the second, survey portion of the project.

The last part of the research project will be interviewing individuals regarding cultural strategies that work.

➤ Meeting Change Proposal – Jennifer Smith

Jennifer Smith proposed splitting MACIE meetings. Her proposal was for one month to have reports—ex-officio, OPI Indian Education administrative. The next month would focus on business (action items).

There was discussion about what happens when the council goes back to in-person meetings. Lona Running Wolf said that when there are in-person meetings, there will still be the option for attending digitally.

There was consensus on split meetings—business one month and informational presentations the next month, with two in-person meetings (April and October). This will start in two months.

➤ Committee Formation

Todd Hanson said committees could stay same as those in the constitution. Change could also be changed if that is what is decided. Jennifer Smith asked if committees need to be created. Mr. Hanson said the committee structure does not mean the committees need to be active or that other committees can be created as needed.

The committees will stay the same. Todd Hanson will do a briefing statement on what each committee would entail to send out to MACIE members. Once this is sent out then MACIE members need to let Joan Franke know which committee would like to be on.

Public Comment

Jennifer Smith asked for public comment. No public comment.

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting

It was decided to have the next (business) meeting on April 7 starting 9:00 a.m.

The MACIE meeting was adjourned at 2:13 p.m.

/s/ Dawn Bishop-Moore

Approved April 7, 2021