



MONTANA ADVISORY COUNCIL ON INDIAN EDUCATION  
ADVISORY TO THE BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION AND  
SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

MACIE Meeting  
May 1, 2024  
Minutes - Draft

Members Present

Dawn Bishop-Moore	Indian Impact Schools of Montana
Norma Bixby	Northern Cheyenne Tribe
Levi Black Eagle	Crow Tribe
Derek Calvert (alternate)	Montana University System
Marcy Cobell	Montana Indian Education Association
Dugan Coburn	Urban – Great Falls
Jordann Forster	Montana Federation of Public Employees
Hilary Gourneau	Tribal Head Start
Melissa Hammett	Urban – Missoula
Iris Kill Eagle	Little Shell Tribe
Carrie Kouba Interim	Office of Public Instruction
Calli Rusche-Nicholson	Billings Public Schools

Guests

Dylan Klapmeier	Governor's Office
Ivan Small	

Office of Public Instruction/ Board of Public Education

McCall Flynn	Joan Franke
Mike Jetty	Julie Murgel
Jennifer Stadum	Rick Wooton

Members Absent

Rodney Bird	Bureau of Indian Education
Michelle Crazy	Fort Belknap Tribes
Michael Dolson	Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes
Harold Dusty Bull	Blackfeet Tribe
Paul Finnicum	MTSBA Indian School Board Caucus
Susie Hedalen	Board of Public Education
Jeremy MacDonald	School Administrators of Montana
Angela McLean	Montana University System
Cory Sangrey-Billy	Tribal Colleges
John Well-Off-Man	Class 7 Teachers

The Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education (MACIE) meeting was called to order on May 1, 2024, at 9:04 a.m. by Chairperson Jordann Forster. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and roll call was taken.

Minutes

The minutes of the March 7, 2024, MACIE meeting were reviewed. Dugan Coburn motioned to approve the minutes. Levi Black Eagle seconded the motion. Passed by all.

## Ex-officio Reports

### ❖ Office of Public Instruction

The Office of Public Instruction (OPI) has hired an Indian Education specialist, Julie Jeffers, and Tribal Student Achievement and Relations Unit Director, Dr. Brookney Gondara Beaverhart. They will start on June 10.

Carrie Kouba provided [information](#) regarding a testing waiver amendment so the schools that participated in the Montana Aligned to Standards Through-Year pilot (MAST) will not be included in the accountability during this current year.

Julie Murgel presented information regarding OPI's competitive grant application that needs to be turned in by May 20 regarding assessment for science. Information will be sent to MACIE members to give feedback and a letter of support. OPI would like MACIE membership on the design of the assessment if receive the grant. Indian Education for All (IEFA) content will be included based on Montana standards. Chairperson Forster encouraged OPI to utilize their inhouse IEFA department to help support this process.

### ❖ Tribal Head Starts

Hilary Gourneau provided information regarding [additional flexibilities to serve tribal students regardless of income levels](#) and a [request for information](#).

The National Indian Head Start Directors Association Management Training Conference will be in Billings in June 24-27, 2024

## American Indian Education Administrative Reports

### ❖ Indian Education for All

Jennifer Stadum provided [information](#) regarding professional development in Indian Education for All (IEFA) during the 2023-2024 school year.

Mike Jetty provided information regarding the Integrated Strategic Action Plan (ISAP) reports regarding what schools are doing regarding IEFA as part of accreditation process. The ISAP information will be provided initially to the Board of Public Education (BPE) in July. When information goes out to the schools has not been determined now. Next steps regarding IEFA information and how to help the schools will be done after that point.

He also talked about activities the IEFA and Tribal Student Achievement and Relations (TSAR) units are doing.

McCall Flynn does not believe any schools will have IEFA funding withheld for the next year.

## Informational Presentations

### ❖ Indian Student Achievement – Ivan Small

Ivan Small is concerned regarding what is happening in schools serving predominantly Native American students. He provided information regarding test scores for schools on the Crow and Northern Cheyenne Reservations and Heart Butte.

He believes school boards have lost focus on what the board is to do, governance. Superintendents and principals need to focus on leadership and getting students to a learner situation. Schools cannot find qualified, effective teachers due to poor governance and leadership.

He is contemplating filing a lawsuit against school boards and superintendents, county superintendents, the county commissioners, the Office of Public Instruction, and the State of Montana.

The issues need to be identified and be dealt with right away. We cannot wait to deal with this.

Levi Black Eagle indicated tribes need to take a more proactive approach to the teaching of students on the reservations. Ivan indicated he is concerned as a superintendent regarding tribal consultation in that the tribes could be interfering with the teaching of students. He indicated that the tribes do need to make sure that the curriculum is good and there is good administration.

Mr. Small indicated the OPI and BPE need to require reports from schools to ensure they are hiring good effective teachers and administrations and meeting accreditation standards.

Jordann Forster indicated she will share concerns at the BPE meeting next week.

Carrie Kouba indicated with the new accreditation plan with ISAP the schools need to provide evidence of what they are doing and will receive a level of accreditation. OPI is starting to help schools with implementing culture and self-identify for the students, but that has not filtered down to achievement. Mr. Small is concerned that IEFA does not move achievement. Jordann articulated the fact that IEFA implementation does help with attendance and achievement as students see reflected in the school.

McCall Flynn indicated the board would be willing to engage with this. She suggested July would be a good time to have a panel discussion. She indicated BPE has not ever not accredited a school as do not want to put additional burden on schools that are struggling. Ivan indicated his next step is to go to the BPE.

OPI is putting together a proposal to do school board coaching along with other issues. Ivan believes school boards thumb their noses at training and coaches. There needs to be accountability of boards regarding expenditures.

### Chairperson Report

MACIE members provided information on happenings.

Chairperson Forster thanked OPI for sending out the guidance regarding regalia.

Jordann provided information on what she talked about during her Montana Indian Education Association (MIEA) presentation. She is wondering if a booth at conferences would be helpful.

Jordann shared the letter she received from the Superintendent of Public Instruction regarding OPI's commitment to providing \$10,000 for meeting travel for the 2023-2024 biennium. She will be sharing this letter at the BPE meeting next week. Several MACIE members expressed concerns and questions regarding why the Superintendent is implementing this now.

MACIE has not received a letter back from the National Education Association regarding the letter regarding misinformation provided to educators. She plans on doing a follow up regarding what they plan on doing regarding preventing misinformation from being provided.

The Governor's office was asked to see if they would sign on, but they declined but asked to be kept in the loop regarding these issues.

Jordann participated in a cultural oversight board meeting with Montana State University in that IEFA and it was indicated that IEFA is a K-21 issue. She is planning on drafting a letter to the university system to remind them that IEFA should be at collegiate level also. Mike Jetty indicated he is on the American Indian and Minority Achievement Council and he has done a training that has been distributed at the colleges and approximately 5,000 have taking it.

Chairperson Forster said she will send a response to indicate she received the letter regarding funding for MACIE and has shared it with the council.

#### Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Levi Black Eagle motioned to adjourn the meeting and Calli Rusche-Nicholson seconded the motion. Passed by All. Meeting adjourned at 12:22 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 5.