



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

Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education

May 1, 2024

Agenda – Informational Session

[Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID 871 6776 7474

Password 937401

Dial by Telephone 1 646 558 8656

Mission: To provide for more effective and meaningful participation by Indian people in planning, implementation, and administration of relevant educational services and programs under the authority of local school boards.

Item 1: Call to Order:	9:00 a.m.
❖ Welcome – Jordann Lankford-Forster, Chairperson	
❖ Pledge of Allegiance	
❖ Roll Call	
Item 2: Approval of Minutes	9:15 a.m.
❖ March 7, 2024, Minutes	
Item 3: Ex-officio Reports (10 minutes each)	9:25 a.m.
❖ Office of Public Instruction – Carrie Kouba	
❖ Tribal Head Starts – Hilary Gourneau	
Item 4: American Indian Education Administrative Reports (10 minutes each)	9:45 a.m.
❖ Indian Education for All Unit – Jennifer Stadium and Mike Jetty	
Item 5: Informational Presentations (15 minutes each)	10:00 a.m.
❖ Tribal Consultation - Michelle Mitchell - CANCELLED	
❖ Indian Student Achievement – Ivan Small	
Item 6: Chairperson Report	11:00 a.m.
Item 8: Public Comment	11:15 a.m.
This is an opportunity for any member of the audience to bring to the attention of the Council questions or relevant comments concerning matters not on the agenda. Please note that the Council is bound by ethical practice, bylaws, and Montana statutes. The Council may not take	

any action on matters brought to the attention of the Council during the public comment portion of the meeting unless specific notice of that matter is included in a properly noticed agenda. Therefore, in the Open Agenda portion of the meeting, the Council will not discuss or take any action, but may refer a matter presented to a future agenda. The following criteria exist for the public comments.

- The public may not discuss items on the current agenda at this time.
- The public may only discuss matters within jurisdiction of the Council.
- No action may be taken on a matter raised during the open agenda.
- The public may not comment in a boisterous, disorderly, hostile, or aggressive manner.
- Each member of the public may address the Council once.

Item 9: Adjournment

11:30 a.m.

Times are approximate

The next meeting is June 5, 2024.



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**MACIE AGENDA
INFORMATIONAL SESSION**

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**ITEM 2
APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- ❖ Handout 2.1
 - Draft March 7, 2024, minutes



MONTANA ADVISORY COUNCIL ON INDIAN EDUCATION
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MACIE Meeting
March 7, 2024
Minutes - Draft

Members Present (* in person)

Dawn Bishop-Moore	Indian Impact Schools of Montana
Norma Bixby	Northern Cheyenne Tribe
Levi Black Eagle*	Crow Tribe
Marcy Cobell	Montana Indian Education Association
Dugan Coburn*	Urban – Great Falls
Michelle Crazy	Fort Belknap Tribes
Paul Finnicum	MTSBA Indian School Board Caucus
Jordann Forster*	Montana Federation of Public Employees
Hilary Gourneau	Tribal Head Start
Susie Hedalen	Board of Public Education
Iris Kill Eagle*	Little Shell Tribe
Carrie Kouba*	Office of Public Instruction
Interim	
Angela McLean	Montana University System
Calli Rusche- Nicholson*	Billings Public Schools
John Well-Off-Man*	Class 7 Teachers

Office of Public Instruction/ Board of Public

<u>Education</u>	
McCall Flynn	Joan Franke*
Rick Wooton	Annette Young
<u>Guests</u>	
Earl Arkinson*	Havre Public Schools
Elaine Arkinson*	
<u>Members Absent</u>	
Rodney Bird	Bureau of Indian Education
Michael Dolson	Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes
Harold Dusty Bull	Blackfeet Tribe
Megan Gourneau	Fort Peck Tribes
Melissa Hammett	Urban – Missoula
Jeremy MacDonald	School Administrators of Montana
Cory Sangrey-Billy	Tribal Colleges

The Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jordann Forster at 10:30 a.m. Chairperson Forster welcomed everyone and roll call was taken.

Minutes

The minutes of the January 3, 2024, meeting were reviewed. Paul Finnicum moved to approve the minutes as written and Dawn Bishop-Moore and Callie Rusche-Nicholson seconded the motion. Passed by all.

Ex-Officio Reports - Superintendent of Public Instruction

Rick Wooton provided information regarding The Yellow Kidney lawsuit. He reviewed the chronology of events. The trial date is currently set for July 29, 2024; however, in January there was a joint motion to stay proceedings for six months due to the impact of House Bill 338 and information received from discovery, parties are optimistic about settling the case and want to explore negotiations. The judge agreed to this. There will be a status conference this afternoon.

Due to HB338 there is an enforcement mechanism for how districts are spending IEFA funding. There is concern regarding schools opting out of funding and not doing Indian Education for All (IEFA). There is requirement for IEFA in the accreditation standards and the districts do need to show how they are implementing IEFA. The Integrated Strategic Action Plan (ISAP) will be reviewed by the IEFA unit. The [Accreditation Status Criteria Reference Guide](#) was shared. There is also concern about the report only coming out halfway through the school year. There will be a Legislative Committee for Education Interim Committee is meeting next week and McCall Flynn anticipates that might be a topic of conversation regarding when implementation actually happens.

Carrie Kouba will find out what happens to monies if they are taken from a school. There was discussion about ideas for what to do with the returned funding, including doing best practices trainings around the state and field trips for students.

Indian Education Unit Reports – Tribal Student Achievement and Relations Unit

Carrie Kouba reviewed what the Tribal Student Achievement and Relations Unit is doing, including Tribal Education Summit and Youth Conference, Transitional Resilience in partnership with State Systemic Improvement Plan, Graduate Profile, morning announcements, supporting schools through restorative practices, wraparound for students, Indigenous Whole Learner Relational Framework, and supporting student voice in the schools.

The American Indian and Minority Achievement council will bring recommendations to the Board of Regents regarding have American Indian faculty and student voice in search processes. There will be a guide developed for this.

Chairperson Report

Chairperson Forster provided information regarding the Western Native Voice and Montana Indian Education Association (MIEA) conferences and the Great Falls Community Pow Wow. Marcy Cobell provided more information about the MIEA conference. MACIE members provided information regarding other conferences and activities.

Angela McLean indicated that enrollment at the university system schools is up six percent. Graduates have increased 25% and retention has grown ten percentage points over the last decade. Persistence from fall to spring semesters was 90.2%.

Jordann asked Paul Finnicum to do a report at a future MACIE meeting on the outcomes regarding the discussion at the Indian School Board Caucus.

Jordann Forster indicated she had received a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) from the Superintendent's Office regarding the funding for MACIE meetings. She is not sure why a MOU

was done instead of just a letter and will not be signing it. The council through consensus agreed Jordann should not sign. The Superintendent will be invited to the May 1 meeting to discuss this.

Meeting resumed at 1:20 p.m.

Carrie Kouba discussed job positions in Indian Education that are open/will soon be opening.

New Business

❖ Roles on MACIE

Chairperson Forster welcomed John Well-Off-Man as the Class 7 Teachers representative. Jeremy MacDonald will be the Chippewa-Cree representative after the Board of Public Education (BPE) meeting in March, and his old position School Administrators of Montana will be open. She also reviewed the other positions.

Ms. Forster indicated she wants member organizations to be well represented and to hear from them.

❖ IEFA Funding Guidance

Jordann Forster and Calli Rusche-Nicolson have discussed whether MACIE would like to do a letter with recommendations regarding this.

Suggestions for implementation of IEFA:

- ✓ questions on standardized tests regarding Indian education content
- ✓ list of presenters for schools – however, Jordann does not want to endorse names of specific people to present in schools
- ✓ updating of [The Framework](#) (page 44) of what certain sized schools should be doing and [Funding Spectrum Guide](#) of how to spend funding

Calli Rusche-Nicolson also suggested there needs to be recommendations for achievement gap funding.

There was discussion regarding recommendations for what to do regarding districts that are not incorporating IEFA or not spending/inappropriately spending the IEFA funding.

Jordann suggested a congratulatory letter regarding efforts in IEFA. She indicated she will draft a generic letter/certificate. Carrie Kouba will inquire as how to view what districts indicate they are doing regarding implementation.

Jordann asked the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) to send out the regalia statement again to the schools. There was consensus on that.

A committee composed of Jordann Forster, Calli Rusche-Nicholson, Levi Black Eagle, and Dugan Coburn to make suggestions regarding revisions to funding and implementation guidance for IEFA and Student Achievement.

Old Business - MACIE goals

The current goals were reviewed and suggestions for changes were provided:

- ✓ positive attendance – either under 1 or 2
- ✓ possibly student engagement, attendance, graduation rates could possibly be a 5th goal
- ✓ goal 4 may need to be adjusted but not sure how
- ✓ educator shortage
- ✓ goals toward IEFA
- ✓ transportation
- ✓ barriers

No committees were created. MACIE will continue to discuss goals in the coming meetings.

Marcy Cobell suggested having a form for feedback on what is happening, both good and bad.

Public Comment

Ivan Small, former educator and concerned person: He talked about student achievement and schools that serve Native American students, especially those on the Crow and Northern Cheyenne Reservations.

Annette Vicedo Young, Comprehensive System of Personnel Development Specialist, Office of Public Instruction, gave information regarding the Montana Recruitment Project through School Administrators of Montana to assist schools in finding critical positions.

Iris Kill Eagle motioned to adjourn the meeting and Dugan Coburn seconded the motion. Passed by all. The meeting was adjourned at 3:17 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 1 via Zoom.



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**ITEM 3
EX-OFFICIO REPORTS**

- ❖ **Office of Public Instruction – Carrie Kouba**
- ❖ **Tribal head Starts – Hilary Gourneau**
 - Handout 3.1
 - Presentation Summary

Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education

Ex-officio and Indian Education Units Presentation Summaries

May 1, 2024

Presentation	Fort Peck Tribes Head Start
Presenter	Hilary Gourneau
Position Title	Program Director
Overview/Talking Points for Presentation	<p>President Biden signed into law provisions giving Head Start programs additional flexibility to serve children in Tribal communities; Tribally run Head Start programs will be able to prioritize enrolling children from the Tribe, or who live with Tribal members, regardless of family income. AIAN Head Starts (6 in MT) will be updating their selection criteria on their applications to fit the new language/provision.</p> <p><i>Request for Information: Office of Head Start Tribal Programs (RFI)</i>, Office of Head Start (OHS) is seeking public comment on whether existing OHS requirements, regulations, and TTA supports for AI/AN Head Start programs, (1) are appropriate for tribal nations to implement in a manner that best meets the needs of the children, families, and programs in their communities, and (2) properly recognize the principles of strong government-to-government relationships and tribal sovereignty. OHS seeks feedback on whether changes to procedures, processes, and TTA materials are needed to improve implementation of AI/AN Head Start programs.</p>
Requested Decision	None
Issue(s) Related to MACIE Goals	Goal 1
Recommendation(s)	None
Handouts	<p>https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/03/29/biden-harris-administration-announces-two-head-start-changes-serve-more-children-tribal-communities-children-agricultural-workers.html</p> <p>https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/03/18/2024-05573/request-for-information-office-of-head-start-tribal-programs</p>



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ITEM 4

AMERICAN INDIAN EDUCATION ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- ❖ Indian Education for All Unit Report
 - Handout 4.3
 - Presentation Summaries

Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education

Ex-officio and Indian Education Units Presentation

May 1, 2024

Presentation	Report on PD events including Best Practices for FY '23-'24
Presenter	Jennifer Stadium
Position Title	Indian Education for All Implementation Specialist
Overview/Talking Points for Presentation	Summary of participation and feedback from: ENERGIZE!; Indian Education for All Across the Content; Best Practices Conference Next Steps in PD and outreach
Requested Decision	n/a
Issue(s) Related to MACIE Goals	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Culture, language, and culturally relevant curriculum 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.2. Equitable access to virtual teaching-learning platforms and connectivity 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.
Recommendation(s)	n/a
Handouts	n/a



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Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education

Ex-officio and Indian Education Units Presentation Summaries

May 1, 2024

Presentation	Indian Education for All update
Presenter	Mike Jetty
Position Title	IEFA Specialist
Overview/Talking Points for Presentation	Update MACIE on the latest IEFA resources – curriculum and professional development. Update MACIE on our efforts to comply with HB 338 and consultation and funding guidance and seek their guidance and input.
Requested Decision	Seeking their guidance and input regarding IEFA implementation efforts.
Issue(s) Related to MACIE Goals	Goal 3 is what we are all about.
Recommendation(s)	None
Handouts	None



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**ITEM 5
INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS**

- ❖ **Tribal Consultation**
 - Handout 6.1
 - Presentation Summary
 - ✓ Attachments - Tribal Council resolution, CSKT's Tribal Education Consultation Plan, Letter to districts, Agenda, Montana OPI Guidance

- ❖ **Indian Student Achievement**
 - Handout 6.2
 - Presentation Summary

MACIE AGENDA PRESENTATION

May 1, 2024

Name and title of person presenting	Ivan Small
Contact information: phone	406-245-1222
Contact information: e-mail	ivansmall74@gmail.com
Organization	N/A
Select one	<input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Business
Presentation title	Indian Student Achievement
Description of presentation	Discuss Indian Student Achievement issues and how to best improve education in schools on/near reservations.
How does this relate to the MACIE goals (next page)	Increasing American Indian student achievement
Action requesting the advisory council take	Action items for next steps and moving forward with collaborative and innovative solutions.
Handouts (send with presentation request)	none
Technology requirements	none



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**ITEM 6
CHAIRPERSON REPORT**

- ❖ Chairperson Report