



MACIE MEETING  
April 7, 2021  
Draft Minutes

Members Present

Yancey Beston	Montana Indian School Boards Caucus
Dugan Coburn	Urban – Great Falls
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
Richard Littlebear	Tribal Colleges
Jeremy MacDonald	School Administrators of Montana
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	Don Wetzel
Durand Bear Medicine	
Joan Franke	Todd Hanson

Guests

McCall Flynn	Board of Public Education
Lea Whitford	

Members Absent

Joe Arrowtop	Montana Indian Education Association
Dawn Bishop-Moore	Indian Impact Schools of Montana
Norma Bixby	Northern Cheyenne Tribe
Rodney Bird	Bureau of Indian Education
Ellie Bundy	Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

The Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education (MACIE) meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. by Chairperson Jennifer Smith. The Pledge of Allegiance was said, and roll call was taken. New member Susie Hedalen was introduced.

Minutes

The minutes from the February 10, 2021, meeting were reviewed. Jason Cummins indicated the information regarding improvement efforts (page 2, paragraph 8) needs to be changed to indicate that both statements are not generally addressed. The “and” should be changed to “nor do they address.”

Jordann Forster motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Melissa Hammett seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the minutes were approved as amended by all.

## Old Business

### ➤ MACIE Members' Community Concerns

Jennifer Smith reviewed the list of concerns MACIE members brought from their community.

Of particular note are the following:

- Need to review what is being done regarding suicide prevention efforts in communities.
- Disparate discipline report by the ACLU will be sent out to MACIE members and a presentation on this will be done at the next meeting.
- At Crow Agency School, for students who were in the dual immersion classroom, their literacy scores were 27% higher than those not in dual immersion.
- For culturally relevant teacher training, the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE) office was approached, and MACIE was directed to the Council of Deans. The work that is now being done will be on a future agenda.
- Jason Cummins feels culturally relevant teaching is different than Indian Education for All (IEFA). He feels it is teaching from the communities' culture frame of reference instead of white, middle class culture.
- Historical trauma knowledge could possibly be included in Chapter 58, Educator Preparation Standards.
- The American Indian Student Achievement (AISA) Unit presented to the Little River Institute (MSU Northern) regarding university level curriculum and coursework, relationships, and capacity building around programming to identify impacts of generational trauma that have an historical point of origin. There is a model being developed regarding this issue. This will be presented at a future meeting.
- Have a group work on cultural relevant curriculum.
- Lona Running Wolf indicated the data from the research project AISA is conducting so far does not indicate a difference in systemic racism between on-reservation and off-reservation schools. This question will be further explored in the survey part of the project.
- There are currently three ways to determine if a student at the university level is American Indian: self-identify on the application process; present Indian Health Services card in lieu of other insurance; or apply for and receive the Indian Tuition Waiver.
- Teachers and administrators misinterpret behaviors in students of a different race or, if of the same background, give the student the benefit of the doubt.
- MACIE and the American Indian and Minority Achievement (AIMA) Council should get together maybe in fall.
- Refresher needed for MACIE members on the Essential Understandings.
- Fiscal literacy should include financial literacy and should include what that specifically looks like in a reservation community.

These community concerns from MACIE members were used as priorities to develop the MACIE goals. There will be a report from the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) in approximately June/July on what is being done to build programming and structure around the MACIE goals.

## ➤ Language Committee Update

Jason Cummings presented a position statement with attachment regarding the protections for usage of Native American languages in schools. The fourth paragraph and the bullet points are specifically what would be asked of OPI and BPE (Board of Public Education).

We, the members of the Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education (MACIE), recommend and advise that the Office of Public Instruction and Board of Public Education address this lack of awareness by informing and preparing educators in the area of the legal protections of Native American languages as well as the other issues previously mentioned that are present in the intersection of school law and Indian law by:

- Providing professional development for trustees, superintendents, principals, and staff.
- Addressing these specific issues in teacher and principal preparation programs.
- Providing support around developing school-based policy and procedures.
- This emphasis is reflected in a review and possible revision to current licensure requirement as well as accreditation.

McCall Flynn indicated this could be included in the chapter 55 and 58 (licensure and teacher prep).

The fourth bullet should say requirements instead of requirement. Also there needs to be punctuation cleanup for the entire statement.

Jennifer Smith indicated this is needed as non-Native administrators and teachers are not allowing students to speak their Native languages.

Michael Dolson moved to adopt the position statement on the Native American language protections. Jordann Lankford seconded with the amendments and punctuation clean up. A vote was taken, and it was approved by all.

A committee regarding the other issues, specifically the regalia and graduation issue, was formed. Those on the committee are Jordann Lankford, Jason Cummins, Harold Dusty Bull, and Megan Gourneau, along with Susie Hedalen, Lona Running and Todd Hansen as technical support.

### Update to the Constitution

Todd Hanson provided possible changes to the constitution and bylaws to add a student representative. This could be shared by more than one student so there would be consistent participation and attendance.

Jordann Lankford said maybe there could be a student representative from a reservation and one from an urban area. It was decided this would be the change to bring forth for voting.

There was also discussion regarding staggering terms.

Mr. Hanson's proposal included discussion regarding the funding of a scholarship as an incentive for participation. This would probably need to be funded through an outside entity with MACIE being the award committee.

This proposal will be voted on at the next working meeting.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

The meeting adjourned at 11:23 a.m.