The Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education (MACIE) meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jennifer Smith at 9:16 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and introductions were done. New members were introduced.

Approval of Minutes
The minutes were reviewed. Norma Bixby motioned to approve the minutes as written except for the correction to Lona Running Wolf’s name on page 3. Iris Kill Eagle seconded the motion. A vote was taken. The motion was passed by all.
Old Business

- Constitutional update

Todd Hanson reviewed the intent behind the constitutional updates for adding student ex-officio representation along with making the term for those representatives.

Jeremy MacDonald motioned to approve the amendment to the constitution to add two American Indian student representatives, one from an urban district and one from a reservation school (Article 1 of the Bylaws), along with adding a term of service in Article 7 for two years for these members. Dawn Bishop-Moore seconded the motion. After discussion, a vote was taken. This was passed by all.

There would be a media campaign to schools for getting nominations.

Michelle Crazy asked about requirements for the student members. Mr. Hanson suggested this could be same with other ex-officio or general guidance to the schools could be provided, but it would be up to the districts to make a nomination.

Jennifer Smith and Jeremy MacDonald asked how the members would be select from the nominees. Todd said there could have a committee that would select and bring to the entire council which would then be forwarded.

A vote was conducted, and the motion was passed by all.

A committee for developing criteria for districts on nominations and for determining which nominees would be selected was formed. Those who volunteered are Norma Bixby, Jeremy MacDonald, Iris Kill Eagle, and Dawn Bishop-Moore, with OPI support by Todd Hanson and Don Wetzel.

Regarding incentives for students to be on the board, Todd suggested maybe asking public school foundations with significant AI student populations, could be reached out for funding a scholarship. Other organizations suggested were Fort Peck Tribes higher education department, Indian School Board Caucus of School Boards of Montana, electric cooperatives. Chairperson Smith said people who have ties to organizations should reach out to find out if funding would be available and then to get that information to Joan Franke. The committee will also take up the discussion regarding scholarships.

- Regalia Committee

Lona Running Wolf indicated the committee met and Todd Hanson would put together a preliminary statement, which he is still working on. There was concern regarding one district was not allowing regalia. When making requests (individually) to the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) and the Board of Public Education (BPE) it needs to be asking them to provide information to school districts that there are laws that need to be followed. Jason Smith indicated the university system needs to prepare pre-service teachers and administrators that there are these laws that

The statement for discussion will be brought to MACIE by the next working meeting in August.

- Ongoing Review of Constituent Concerns

The MACIE member community concerns that went into developing the goals were reviewed. Jennifer Smith would like time on the agendas to discuss a particular issue. Through consensus to have discussions at working meetings on what is being done in communities and what can be put in place to deal with these issues. For the next meeting the discussion will be on discipline. There will be a presentation on the disparate discipline in Montana report at the next informational meeting in July.
The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) data and survey were discussed.

New Business

- Board of Public Education Follow-up

Michelle Crazy and Michael Dolson were approved at the last BPE meeting. The nomination for Levi Black Eagle by the Crow Tribal Council will be taken to the next meeting in July.

The information regarding the language statement forwarded previously to the BPE will be updated so they know that MACIE is asking them to provide information to schools on laws regarding use of Native languages in the schools.

- New Member Approval/Recommendations

Nominations from School Board Association Indian School Board Caucus and Tribal Head Start need to be received. Once those are received, they will be forwarded to the Superintendent of Public Instruction (Superintendent) and BPE for approval.

Non-Agenda Discussions

Angela McLean would like the new American Indian and Minority Achievement Council and MACIE to get together share and discuss what would be a path to go forward to connect work. Angela and Chairperson Jennifer Smith will discuss the agenda for the meeting in November.

Chairperson Smith discussed the Chapter 58, educator preparation taskforce participation. There will be meeting every Thursday morning. There is concern among MACIE members regarding IEFA preparation at the college level. Chairperson Smith asked if there is anyone who would be willing to be on the task force.

There was discussion regarding the Attorney General’s opinion regarding Critical Race Theory. There is concern there will be reluctance and pushback regarding implementation of Indian Education for All (IEFA) due to misinformation regarding what the opinion states. Appreciation for the Superintendent support for American Indian student achievement and IEFA was expressed.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

The next meeting is July 7.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

/s/ Dawn Bishop-Moore
Approved July 7, 2021