



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

MACIE Meeting  
September 8, 2021  
Minutes

Members Present

Dawn Bishop-Moore	Indian Impact Schools of Montana
Norma Bixby	Northern Cheyenne Tribe
Levi Black Eagle	Crow Tribe
Dugan Coburn	Urban – Great Falls
Michelle Crazy	Fort Belknap Tribe
Jason Cummins	Class 7
Michael Dolson	Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes
Melissa Hammett	Urban - Missoula
Susie Hedalen	Board of Public Education
Iris Kill Eagle	Little Shell Tribe
Jordann Lankford	Montana Federation of Public Employees
Jeremy MacDonald	School Administrators of Montana
Angela McLean	Montana University System
Lona Running Wolf	Montana Office of Public Instruction
Voyd St. Pierre	Chippewa Cree Tribe
Jennifer Smith	Urban - Billings

Office of Public Instruction/  
Board of Public Education

Elsie Arntzen	McCall Flynn
Joan Franke	Zach Hawkins
Mike Jetty	Jennifer Stadum
Sarah Swanson	Don Wetzel

Guests

Dylan Klapmeier	Governor's Office
Dani Morris	National Indian Education Association
Kristin Seale	Utah State University
Judi Urquhart	National Indian Education Associate
Riley Werk	
Casie Wise	National Indian Education Association

Members Absent

Rodney Bird	Bureau of Indian Education
Harold Dusty Bull	Blackfeet Tribe
Megan Gourneau	Fort Peck Tribes
Dr. Richard Littlebear	Tribal College

The Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education (MACIE) meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jennifer Smith at 9:00 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and roll call was taken.

## Minutes

The minutes from the August 11, 2021 meeting were reviewed. Jennifer Smith stated that under new business, creation of new MACIE logo the sentence “There would no liabilities . . . “ needs to be corrected to “There would be no liabilities . . .”

Voyd St. Pierre moved to approve the minutes as amended and Dugan Coburn seconded the motion. Passed by all.

## Ex-Officio Reports

- Montana University System – Angela Mclean
- ✓ An American Indian Student Success Report will be prepared for the Board of Regents (BOR) from data received after the first 15 days of classes.
- ✓ Lona Running Wolf will be joining the American Indian and Minority Achievement Council. This council makes recommendations to the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education and sometimes to the (BOR).
- ✓ There will be data on first year services that were provided by Montana GEAR-UP.
- ✓ Montana Educational Talent Search grant was refunded for five more years.
- ✓ A system level grant was received to serve students who are adult learners who have stopped out and get them back into the post-secondary school to complete education.
- ✓ Last year at the University of Montana a pilot program was done to provide wraparound services to students. The data will be available next semester.
- Superintendent’s Report – Elsie Arntzen
- ✓ The Office of Public Instruction (OPI) is having discussions with the U.S. Department of Education regarding equity and what that means with the funding formula.
- ✓ A web page has been created for what schools need to do.
- ✓ Montana has received funding since the pandemic. This funding must be spent by 2024. It also needs to be sustainable.
- ✓ Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools (EANS) funds are being provided. If this funding is not spent through the Office of Public Instruction, it reverts back to the governor’s office, who can spend this money.
- ✓ Montana is piloting an assessment system where data is collected from other assessments already being done. Information from the fall, the winter, and the spring to determine if there has been growth. If this is successful, the summative test in the spring can be eliminated. Montana is only state in the nation doing this.
- ✓ The Comprehensive School and Community Treatment Program for mental health services has been transferred to OPI from the Department of Public Health and Human Services.
- ✓ Native American Heritage Day is September 24.
- ✓ The School Law Conference is November 17-18.
- ✓ There are four finalists for the Montana Teacher of the Year. There were 20 applications received.
- ✓ September 17 is Constitution Day. There will be a YouthVote Program and US Constitution Contest in conjunction with this.

Dr. Cummins asked that the Indigenous language protections statement be provided the law conference participants. MACIE is still awaiting OPI’s response on that recommendation. He

and other council members are concerned regarding Critical Race Theory (CRT) and misunderstanding of what it is which damages Indian Education for All (IEFA).

Superintendent Arntzen emphasized our Montana constitution protects the teaching IEFA the Superintendent believes there is work to be done on this.

The critical race theory meeting was a national meeting. Superintendent Arntzen will get a list of those who attended. She discussed why she asked for the Attorney General's (AG) opinion as she was hearing from Montana parents and teachers on what was going on in their schools. It is clear in the order that children cannot be segregated, subjected to anything, or scapegoated as it is discrimination. The Superintendent also talked about bullying. She stated the opinion does protect IEFA.

The budget for MACIE was discussed. The Superintendent indicated that was because of the pandemic and not having in-person meetings. There is no cutting of the budget per se. The budget would increase when in-person meetings start again.

Chairperson Smith discussed one of the topics of the role going forward between MACIE and OPI. She does not feel that she should be the only one in this discussion, but it should be a committee. She also would like a MACIE member to be in the discussions regarding CRT.

#### American Indian Education Administrative (OPI) Reports

- Tribal Relations & Resiliency Unit – Don Wetzel
  - ✓ A brochure was created to send out to tribes to let them know what the unit does.
  - ✓ An elders' wisdom council is being created. Hope to have a meeting at the end of this month.
  - ✓ The Systems of Care grant was not received. The unit is looking to appeal the decision. A no cost extension will carry this out until December and possibly further. They are working with schools that have facilitators to use ARP ESSER funding to continue this program.
  - ✓ Have been having virtual meetings with the tribes to have them involved in creating Title plans of the school districts.
  - ✓ Working with Title I to add tribal consultation to the compliance form for Title fund plans. This could also be done with other programs.
  
- Indian Education for All Unit – Zach Hawkins
  - ✓ Clarified that nothing in the AG's opinion precludes IEFA. Nothing from OPI is providing is discriminatory. Teaching another perspective is not violation of law. A frequently asked question document has been developed and will be released soon.
  - ✓ American Heritage Day - There will be an event from 10:00 – noon at the Tribal Flag Pavilion. This is in conjunction with the Historical Society. There will be a traditional games presentation.
  - ✓ The unit has started in person professional development along with continuing online professional development. Upcoming online professional development include contemporary topics in Indian Country by Advocacy Award recipients and an ethnobotany series. Also core subject recorded professional development modules are being developed. There are several Hub courses being developed.
  - ✓ Bainville will be piloting elementary social studies IEFA lessons with the new social studies standards.

## MACIE Chairperson Report

- ✓ Chairperson Smith had Riley Werk introduce herself.
- ✓ There was a discussion regarding student representatives being on the meeting for the entire meeting, especially when the meeting goes longer than expected. This will be taken up by the student representation committee.
- ✓ Chairperson Smith received an email to meet with Superintendent and Sarah Swanson regarding MACIE and OPI. She is not comfortable being the only MACIE member in this conversation. Jason Cummins, Norma Bixby, and Jordann Lankford-Forster are willing to be on this committee. If there is anyone else get name to Joan Franke.
- ✓ Board of Public Education meeting is next week.

## Informational Presentations

- Illuminating the Contributions of Native Veterans: Supporting Montana Tribes and Indian Education for All – Casie Wise, Judi Urquhart, and Dani Morrison, National Indian Education Association

The National Indian Education Association (NIEA) is looking to gather more stories regarding being Native in the military, what lead them to the military and how it has affected their lives after. They currently have 25. They are hoping to have 40-50 before writing the curriculum. If you have a veteran to recommend, please let [Casie Wise](#) know.

NIEA is looking for teachers, especially from Montana, who are willing to write the lessons. There will be training and a stipend given for writing lessons. There will be 100-120 lessons and interviews and NIEA would like MACIE to review the lessons before they are published.

### [Curriculum Writer Application](#)

Chair taken over by Jason Cummins.

- Indian Education in Computing: A Montana Story – Kristin Seale, Utah State University

This is a National Science Foundation funded project integrating new computer science standards with IEFA and other content standards. They are developing curriculum for fourth and fifth grades and have three lessons developed already on flora and fauna (science, computer science, language arts) and ledger art. They would like master teachers to pilot these lessons. There will be a stipend. Professional development will be provided next summer for 30 teachers so they may implement the lessons in their classrooms. All training and supplies will be provided. If you know of master teachers or tribal resources let [Kristin Searle](#) know.

- Critical Race Theory – Questions and Answers

No one was available from the Attorney General's Office to attend.

## Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Norma Bixby motioned to adjourn the meeting and Dugan Coburn seconded. Passed by all.

The MACIE meeting was adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

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/s/ Dawn Bishop-Moore

Approved September 8, 2021