



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

MACIE Meeting
October 6, 2021
Minutes

Members Present

Norma Bixby	Northern Cheyenne Tribe
Levi Black Eagle	Crow Tribe
Dugan Coburn	Urban – Great Falls
Michelle Crazy	Fort Belknap Tribe
Jason Cummins	Class 7
Jordann Forster	Montana Federation of Public Employees
Melissa Hammett	Urban - Missoula
Susie Hedalen	Board of Public Education
Jeremy MacDonald	School Administrators of Montana
Angela McLean	Montana University System
Voyd St. Pierre	Chippewa Cree Tribe
Jennifer Smith	Urban – Billings

Office of Public Instruction/
Board of Public Education

Pat Armstrong	Elsie Arntzen
Durand Bear Medicine	McCall Flynn
Joan Franke	Nicole Frieling
Zach Hawkins	Michelle Hensen

Mike Jetty	Dan McGee
Stephen Morsette	Julie Murgel
Brian O’Leary	Don Wetzel
Annette Young	

Guests

Todd Hanson	
Dylan Klapmeier	Governor’s Office
Lona Running Wolf	University of Montana Western

Members Absent

Rodney Bird	Bureau of Indian Education
Dawn Bishop-Moore	Indian Impact Schools of Montana
Michael Dolson	Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes
Harold Dusty Bull	Blackfeet Tribe
Megan Gourneau	Fort Peck Tribes
Iris Kill Eagle	Little Shell Tribe
Dr. Richard Littlebear	Tribal College
Riley Werk	Youth - Reservation

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

There was an honor song for Lona Running Wolf for her service at the Office of Public Instruction as American Indian Student Achievement Unit Director and MACIE liaison.

Minutes

The minutes of the September 8, 2021, minutes were reviewed. Voyd St. Pierre motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Jeremy MacDonald seconded the motion. Passed by all.

Chairperson Report

Jennifer Smith had Lona Running Wolf explain her position at the University of Montana Western. She will be working with tribal colleges with Blackfeet Community College and Little Big Horn College to develop curriculum to focus on culture and self-identity of students and develop curriculum so they will be prepared to teach Native American students in the classroom. It is hoped they will partner with other tribal colleges in the future.

MACIE has open positions for Head Start, Montana School Boards Association Indian School Board Caucus, and Montana Indian Education Association and Bureau of Indian Education. Requests have been sent requesting nominations.

Ms. Running Wolf's position will be posted by next week.

Chairperson Smith would like to have the Attorney General's Office attend at MACIE regarding Critical Race Theory. The Superintendent will reach out to have someone for next meeting.

Angela McLean explained the American Indian and Minority Achievement Council (AIMA). They meet before the Regent meetings to look at policies to suggest changes that will grow American Indian Student achievement.

There was discussion regarding MACIE meeting with the AIMA Council. Dugan Coburn moved to hold this meeting in December. Jeremy MacDonald seconded the motion. The talking points for the meeting will be introductions between the groups and speak to priorities to improve American Indian student achievement at the university system. The motion was passed by all. Jennifer recommended same date schedule December 8.

Old Business

➤ Research Project Survey – Lona Running Wolf

Lona Running Wolf provided information on the reason for the research project. She introduced the American Indian Student Achievement (AISA) team (current and previous) – Todd Hanson, Dan McGee, Durand Bear Medicine, and Pat Armstrong and the Research Grant team – Nicole Frieling and Robin Clausen. They gave a brief update on the research project.

Ms. Running Wolf also gave information on the American Indian Achievement Task Force and introduced Michele Henson who will be taking the lead on the task force.

➤ Subcommittees – Jennifer Smith

- Student Representative

A new committee chair is needed. Chairperson Jennifer Smith will reach out to Iris Kill Eagle to see if she would be willing to chair this committee. Determination of when the youth representatives need to be on the meetings is needed.

- Regalia

At the original committee meeting it was determined that a statement of support would come from MACIE, but this did not happen. Jordann Forster will write that statement for the next meeting.

Ms. Forster said some districts have specific language in the dress code regarding graduation attire. Norma Bixby said Native American Rights Fund has language regarding regalia and they could possibly help with the language with the MACIE statement. Jennifer Smith indicated Jen Gross from Billings, who introduced bill, might have insight into this.

Chairperson Smith requested members explore local dress code policies. This will then be on the next meeting to discuss what MACIE's statement and recommendation will be.

➤ Revisit MACIE Member Concerns

At a previous meeting there was a presentation from the ACLU regarding disparate discipline and the ACLU report. Chairperson Jennifer Smith is asked if anyone had anything else to further the discussion on this.

- Jason Cummins indicated he had brought this report up previously in regard to concerns of Critical Race Theory opponents mentioning scapegoating. He mentioned our kids are the victims of systemic racism in the school systems and they are scapegoated (victim-blamed) for the systemic issues the schools have.
- The Office of Public Instruction (OPI) needs to Identify schools that need to implement restorative practices instead of punitive practices and offer professional development.
- The Tribal Relations and Resiliency Unit has restorative practices training they can do.
- Information can be presented at the monthly regional superintendents' meetings.

➤ Critical Race Theory (CRT) – Where we go from here

- Superintendent Arntzen will ask the Attorney General to present to MACIE.
- Need to have a consistent definition instead of everyone having their own definition.
- MACIE needs to be active in discussions.
- OPI has reached out to Dr. Sweeney Wind Chief regarding the law conference but have no confirmation yet.
- OPI Indian Education for All (IEFA) Unit has developed a FAQ document which has not been distributed yet.
- Chairperson Smith will send a definition for CRT.

New Business

➤ OPI-MACIE Relationship – Superintendent Elsie Arntzen

The Superintendent is looking for a relationship between the OPI, the Board of Public Education (BPE) and MACIE.

Chairperson Jennifer Smith said the liaison position with OPI is valuable. She also stressed the valuable assistance of Joan Franke with agendas and other issues.

Norma Bixby indicated MACIE has always been under OPI with funding assistance and is not sure what the concern is regarding the OPI-MACIE relationship. The superintendent indicated her challenge is the BPE and what they would like to see with MACIE and the role between OPI and BPE with regard to MACIE. McCall Flynn, Executive Director of the BPE, indicated they have worked with MACIE in the past and are willing to work with them in the future. Superintendent

