



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

MACIE Meeting  
 February 9, 2022  
 Minutes - Approved

Members Present

Dawn Bishop-Moore	Indian Impact Schools of Montana
Norma Bixby	Northern Cheyenne Tribe
Dugan Coburn	Urban – Great Falls
Jason Cummins	Class 7
Michael Dolson	Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes
Jordann Forster	Montana Federation of Public Employees
Carrie Gopher	Office of Public Instruction
Melissa Hammett	Urban - Missoula
Susie Hedalen	Board of Public Education
Iris Kill Eagle	little Shell Tribe
Jeremy MacDonald	School Administrators of Montana
Jeannie Origbo (alternate)	Montana University System
Voyd St. Pierre	Chippewa Cree Tribe
Jennifer Smith	Urban – Billings

Office of Public Instruction/

Board of Public Education

Elsie Arntzen	Matthew Bell
Joan Franke	Zach Hawkins
Mike Jetty	Donnie Wetzel
Annette Young	

Guests

Travis Anderson	Christa Gabriel
Ally Seneczko	

Members Absent

Rodney Bird	Bureau of Indian Education
Michelle Crazy	Fort Belknap Tribes
Harold Dusty Bull	Blackfeet Tribe
Levi Black Eagle	Crow Tribe
Megan Gourneau	Fort Peck Tribes
Dr. Richard Littlebear	Tribal College
Angela McLean	Montana University System
Riley Werk	Youth - Reservation

The Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education (MACIE) meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Chairperson Jennifer Smith. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and roll call was taken.

Carrie Gopher, American Indian Student Achievement Director, and Matthew Bell, Language and Culture Immersion Specialist introduced themselves.

## Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 5, 2022 meeting were reviewed. No corrections were noted. Dawn Bishop-Moore motioned to approve the minutes as written. Michael Dolson seconded the motion. Passed by all.

## Ex-Officio Reports

### ➤ Superintendent of Public Instruction – Elsie Arntzen

The Summer Institute will be held this year at Montana State University Bozeman. A portal of the new licensure system will be shown.

The dropout rate across the state is increasing while the graduation rate is decreasing. The gap between Native American students and the aggregate of all students is also widening. The superintendent would like to discuss with MACIE on how to find out why this is happening and work to change this. She would also like to find ways to provide students with completion of high school if they do not graduate with their cohort (four years as required by federal government for data).

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grant is lapsing. The School Improvement Grant is also ending. Some of those who have been working with the SAMHSA wraparound grant will continue working in other agencies in another role. The superintendent would like to discuss with MACIE if there is another way to partner in mental health.

Medicaid reimbursement for schools was given in the last legislative session. There are 23 schools signed up at this time. This, however, requires a hard dollar match of 1/3. The other 2/3 will come from the federal government. The first payment goes out February 11. Schools may sign up monthly for this. The superintendent would like to have discussion with MACIE regarding how best to provide mental health services to students at schools predominately serving American Indian students.

A partnership between the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) and sovereign nations and school districts need to happen to improve mental health for students. The Superintendent will put together a plan for working together.

The Chapter 55 rules are being organized. Public comment will be needed regarding these accreditation standards.

### ➤ Montana University System – Jeannie Origbo and Travis Anderson

The Montana Educational Talent Search has been refunded for five years to provide services to nine school districts throughout Montana - Browning, Great Falls, Hardin, Heart Butte, Lodge Grass, Polson, Ronan, St. Ignatius, and Two Eagle River. Services center around financial literacy, college exploration, soft skill development, leadership, and general high school completion. The Department of Education gave a couple of competitive priorities - STEM with an emphasis on computer science and engaged citizenship.

An Educational Opportunity Center grant was received by the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE) for the first time. This serves eligible clients in eleven counties –

Beaverhead, Broadwater, Deer Lodge, Granite, Jefferson, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Missoula, Powell, Ravalli, Silver Bow – for adults (or younger if no eligible program in the area) with services center around advisement high school diploma completion or equivalency, financial literacy, and the college admission process. The department priorities for this grant are a high-quality education options for service members, veterans, and their families and fostering flexible and affordable pathways for obtaining knowledge and skills.

The OCHE Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion team is offering some professional development. The first one is February 23. This is a student panel on the topic What Indigenous Students Need to Succeed in College. On March 23 Mike Jetty and Zach Hawkins from OPI will do a presentation on Teaching Culturally, Honoring the Strengths of Indigenous Students.

College Access Decision week is coming up May 2-6.

The first-year services that GEAR-UP started is continuing for a second year. This is to provide services for students who graduated from GEAR-UP high schools receive services for college success. The campuses this is taking place at are Montana State University (MSU) Bozeman and Billings, University of Montana Missoula, Flathead Valley Community College, and Salish Kootenai College. The corresponding community colleges have been added in this second year.

Montana GEAR-UP worked with the Department of Education and received approval to use some of the carry over funds to support the university system's 1-2-Free initiative to offer up to two dual enrollment classes to each Montana high school student.

Norma Bixby asked Talent Search and GEAR-UP that those who work on/near reserves to contact tribal education departments to provide information on programs.

Jason Cummins was wondering about retention rates for Native American students.

#### American Indian Education Administrative Reports

➤ Tribal Relations and Resiliency Unit – Don Wetzel

The [document](#) on how to use American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief funds to support students was discussed. This provides strategies that have worked in different schools were gathered and categories the strategies support. There are links to various programs.

Jennifer Smith would like to see ideas for urban areas.

Engaging students to unlock their potential is a good way to provide services.

➤ Indian Education for All Unit – Zach Hawkins

Mr. Hawkins indicated the Indian Education for All (IEFA) continues to work with educator preparation programs and the Council of Deans to make sure the programs reflect knowledge of the IEFA Framework. The social studies standards are being updated. The high school and middle school lessons have all been updated and there are still a few elementary lessons to be updated.

There are two webinar series being presented, Ethnobotany and Current Issues in Indian Country. An IEFA and Contemporary Issues hub course is in the preproduction stages. The plan

is to have this in the fall. There are tentative plans for an IEFA Best Practices Conference in May and an Advocacy Institute in June-July.

The IEFA Unit is asking for help regarding the names of the tribes. The unit would like the MACIE tribal representatives to verify the authentic spelling and pronunciation of each name.

Jennifer Smith says Zach needs a raise.

### Informational Presentations

- Disability Rights Montana Education Advocacy – Ally Seneczko and Christa Gabriel, Disability Rights Montana

The Disability Rights Montana organization mission is to protect and advocate for human, legal, and civil rights of Montanans with disabilities while advancing dignity, equality, and self-determination. They are looking to make connections to build collaboration in Indian country for students with disabilities. They are mandated by the federal government under the Developmental Disabilities Act as the civil rights protection and advocacy system for Montana. They have the legal authority to represent almost any person with a disability. They provide information and referral, short term assistance and advocacy, and legal representation. All information is on their [website](#).

MACIE would reach out to Disability Rights Montana if there is a family that is working with the administration and MACIE member trying to navigate the special education system and resolve an issue. There would also be collaboration working on issues regarding outreach, training, and legislation for Native communities.

### Chairperson Report

The goals and member concerns were reviewed. Chairperson Smith asked members to review these and talk to communities/schools regarding current concerns. Then at the next working meeting there will be a discussion on this and the strategic plan that was developed to determine if they need to be updated.

Jeremy MacDonald suggested making graduation rates our next concentration along with IEFA and teacher preparation.

Per discussion will have working session on April 6 in person. This will be an all-day session.

### Old Business

- Regalia Committee – Jordann Forster

Ms. Forster has been talking to Shane Morigeau who is working with the Native American Caucus to get a legal statement written up. However, she is concerned that waiting for the legal summary may take too long and to do a MACIE statement because it is the law. It was decided to go ahead with a MACIE statement. The committee will work on updating the statement and then will bring it to the entire council at the next working session.

Public Comment

Matthew Bell discussed what he is doing at the Office of Public Instruction regarding language and culture – Class 7, Indigenous Language Immersion Program (ILIP) and Montana Indigenous Language Preservation (MILP) program.

Jordann Forster motioned to adjourn the meeting and Dawn Bishop-Moore (and Dugan Coburn) seconded the motion. Passed by all. The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

/s/ Dawn Bishop-Moore

Approved April 6, 2022