



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

MACIE Meeting  
 January 4, 2023  
 Minutes - Approved

Members Present

Dawn Bishop-Moore	Indian Impact Schools of Montana
Levi Black Eagle	Crow Tribe
Dugan Coburn	Urban – Great Falls
Michelle Crazy	Fort Belknap Tribes
Jonathan Eagleman	Chippewa Cree Tribe
Paul Finnicum	MTSBA Indian School Board Caucus
Jordann Forster	Montana Federation of Public Employees
Hilary Gourneau	Tribal Head Start
Megan Gourneau	Fort Peck Tribes
Melissa Hammett	Urban – Missoula
Susie Hedalen	Board of Public Education
Iris Kill Eagle	Little Shell Tribe
Jeannie Origbo (alternate)	Montana University System
Callie Rusche- Nicholson	Billings Public Schools

Guests

Anna East	Montana Digital Academy
Dylan Klapmeier	Governor’s Office
Jason Neiffer	Montana Digital Academy

Office of Public Instruction/  
 Board of Public Education

Elsie Arntzen	Matthew Bell
Alicia Doney	McCall Flynn
Joan Franke	Zach Hawkins
Crystal Hickman	Mike Jetty
Carrie Kouba	Anna Marsicano
Morgan Smith	Jennifer Stadum
Don Wetzel	

Members Absent

Rodney Bird	Bureau of Indian Education
Norma Bixby	Northern Cheyenne Tribe
Marcy Cobell	Montana Indian Education Association
Michael Dolson	Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes
Harold Dusty Bull	Blackfeet Tribe
Carrie Gopher	Office of Public Instruction
Jeremy MacDonald	School Administrators of Montana
Angela McLean	Montana University System

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

## Minutes

The minutes of the November 9, 2022, meeting were reviewed. Iris Killeagle motioned to approve the minutes. Dugan Coburn seconded the motion. Passed by all.

## Ex-officio Reports

### ❖ Superintendent's Report – Elsie Arntzen

Superintendent Arntzen discussed the Montana Alternative Assessment pilot in math and reading happening in 33 districts and the Teacher residency program, the majority of which is in on-reservation schools. She also highlighted opportunities at the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) in the Indian education units. She also discussed the tribal caucus which will take place on Thursdays each week during the legislature.

Dugan Coburn asked about the percentage of Native American students participating in the pilot. The Superintendent will get information on this. Jonathan Eagleman asked if it would be able to get the test and if there is Native language references in the summative assessment. The Superintendent will get a sample of the questions. The summative assessment will still need to be given per federal requirements. If the alternative assessment is approved, it would supplant the summative assessment.

Jonathan Eagleman asked about Indigenous Language Immersion Program (ILIP) application so others on the committee will understand this. The Superintendent will get information on this to share with MACIE.

Jordann Forster asked about Best Practices being in other cities based on feedback she has received. The Superintendent will visit with leadership on this to fulfill this request.

### ❖ Montana University System – Jeannie Origbo

Jeannie Origbo discussed the recommendations that in the draft form and are going through the approval process, the Educational Opportunity Center, Montana Educational Talent Search, and Montana GEAR UP.

Jonathan Eagleman asked about the Rocky Boy Reservation not having an educational talent search council and Ms. Origbo indicated that the state does not have a grant on the Rocky Boy Reservation and is not able to serve outside of the service area, but she is willing to discuss with him how the state would be able to support Rocky Boy in the next round of competition in 2025.

The Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE) is recruiting for a new GEAR UP Director. The vacancy announcement should be out by the end of the week. Angela McLean serving as interim director.

## [Educational Opportunity Center Video](#)

## American Indian Education Administrative Reports

### ❖ American Indian Student Achievement Unit – Morgan Smith

Morgan Smith discussed the tribal caucus meetings she and Carrie Gopher will be participating in, along with the shared strategies document for including how schools can incorporate culture.

### ❖ Indian Education for All – Jennifer Stadum, Mike Jetty, Zach Hawkins

Jennifer Stadum provided information on the fall webinars – Indian Boarding Schools and Tribal Sovereignty – which had all indigenous presenters, the Best Practices Conference March 17-18, 2023, a virtual conference, and K-12 grant restructuring for cultural exchanges.

Jonathan Eagleman suggested considering language or Class 7 themes need to be in language standards. Zach Hawkins said highest tier of Indian Education for All (IEFA) implementation does include language.

Mike Jetty discussed in-person professional development provided to schools and other venues. If a school would like in-person presentations, school personnel needs to get in touch with the unit.

Zach Hawkins discussed the process of supporting comprehensive and targeted schools with IEFA.

### ❖ Tribal Relations and Resiliency Unit

Donnie Wetzel indicated the unit is fully staffed with the hiring in October of Anna Marsicano as AmeriCorps planner.

### Initiatives in Unit

- Meeting with tribal councils and have support from tribal nations
- Quarterly tribal consultation meetings
- statewide youth conference in April and regional youth conferences
- AmeriCorps/VISTA pilot program in Salish and Blackfoot country to link graduates from schools on the reservation to elders to be a bridge for elder knowledge for the schools
- Grants to schools
- updating memorandums of understanding with the tribes regarding Class 7 certification
- presentations regarding heritage languages and language learning
- helping with the World Language Standards updates
- Knowledge Keepers of Indigenous Nations (KKIN) and working to establish a cultural repository for schools to access for presenters
- providing students with mental health support
- Tribal nation conference April 5-6
- mental health conversations
- Build capacity in schools to respond to needs of students
- can train in wraparound, motivational interviewing, restorative practices, mental health resources, family and community engagement

## Informational Presentations

### ❖ Montana Digital Academy Indigenous Language Program – Jason Nieffer and Anna East

The Montana Digital Academy (MTDA) has made Anna East a full-time tribal relations and education fellow based on grant funding. They are looking for funding to continue her work.

Anna East discussed the Indigenous Language Program based on funding provided by the 2021 legislature for tribes to develop online language courses. Outreach to the tribes that want the courses to determine what resources are already available. The classes are 18 weeks long and are guided by and reviewed by tribal people. A Class 7 teacher affiliated with a public school needs to be hired to teach the class.

Addressing how the tribes want courses taught needs to be done. The courses are gradeless as much as possible and not linear.

The Cree class launched in fall and will be redone in spring. The Crow will launch the end of January. They are working with Fort Peck for a Dakota/Nakoda launch in the fall and then after that potentially Fort Belknap.

### ❖ Montana Seal of Biliteracy – McCall Flynn

The Seal of Biliteracy is to give students recognition of proficiency in a world language. The process for Native languages mirrors the Class 7 process. The tribes will determine proficiency measures and criteria for the award in the particular Native language. Students will also need to show proficiency in English. There will be Memorandums of Understanding between OCHE and the tribes regarding eligibility requirements and competency standards. There is an application for the students to receive the seal. Hopefully the information will be out in January and start receiving applications in May.

## Chairperson Report

Chairperson Jordann Forster discussed the new tribal college ex-officio member nominations – Sean Chandler, Eva Flying, and Haven Gourneau – to replace Dr. Richard Littlebear who has retired. Members should review the nominee qualifications and send [Joan Franke](#) who would like to be presented to the approve at the February meeting for presentation to the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Board of Public Education (BPE) for approval at the then next BPE meeting.

Chairperson Jordann Lankford encourages members to go back to their communities and share what learn in the meetings regarding OPI and BPE actions and initiatives. She also encourages members to draft position statements on issues of passion to bring to whole council.

Jonathan Eagleman believes the language position statement needs to be revisited as it has not been acted on. He believes Native language needs to be part of core standards. Chairperson Forster indicated the statement is a language use protection statement and it has not been three years. Susie Hedalen said the BPE is making sure schools are aware when the issue comes up.

Paul Finnicum said another thing should look at is letting schools know they can determine their own curriculum based on state law. Mr. Finnicum will find out from the Montana School Board Association what they have regarding this and will email it.

Public Comment

Levi Black Eagle, Crow tribal representative, highly encouraged members to look to proposed legislation LC964, encouraging Congress to look into alternatives to the American reservation system.

The next meeting is February 1, via Zoom.

Dugan Coburn motioned to adjourn the meeting and Dawn Bishop-Moore seconded the motion. Pass by all.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:09 p.m.

/s/ Dawn Bishop-Moore  
Approved February 1, 2023