



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

MACIE Meeting  
 February 1, 2023  
 Minutes - Approved

Members Present

Norma Bixby	Northern Cheyenne Tribe
Levi Black Eagle	Crow Tribe
Marcy Cobell	Montana Indian Education Association
Dugan Coburn	Urban – Great Falls
Jonathan Eagleman	Chippewa Cree Tribe
Paul Finnicum	MTSBA Indian School Board Caucus
Jordann Forster	Montana Federation of Public Employees
Megan Gourneau	Fort Peck Tribes
Susie Hedalen	Board of Public Education
Iris Kill Eagle	Little Shell Tribe
Jeremy MacDonald	School Administrators of Montana
Angela McLean	Montana University System
Callie Rusche- Nicholson	Billings Public Schools
John Stiffarm	Class 7
Don Wetzel	Office of Public Instruction

Guests

Cory Sangrey-Billy Tribal Colleges  
 (MACIE nominee)

Office of Public Instruction/  
 Board of Public Education

Matthew Bell Joan Franke  
 Morgan Smith

Members Absent

Dawn Bishop-Moore	Indian Impact Schools of Montana
Rodney Bird	Bureau of Indian Education
Michelle Crazy	Fort Belknap Tribes
Michael Dolson	Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes
Harold Dusty Bull	Blackfeet Tribe
Hilary Gourneau	Tribal Head Start
Melissa Hammett	Urban – Missoula

The Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education (MACIE) meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and roll call was taken.

Minutes

The minutes of the January 4, 2023, meeting were reviewed. No corrections were made. Iris Kill Eagle motioned to approve them as written. Levi Black Eagle seconded the motion. Passed by all.

## Chairperson Report – Jordann Forster

Cory Sangrey-Billy of Stone Child College will be the Tribal Colleges representative, as she was nominated by the tribal college presidents' organization. She gave a short informational presentation about the college organization.

Chairperson Forster reviewed the information she had presented to the Board of Public Education (BPE) meeting, including reiterating the two position statements. She encourages MACIE members to promote these positions when possible.

Jordann will be reaching out to members to get to know more about them and how they envision MACIE. She indicated members need to be active and attend meetings. Consensus was reached that members would abide by by-laws and reach out to members who do not participate and then to the organization for a new nomination if the member is not able to participate fully.

### Old Business

#### ➤ Election of Secretary

Dawn Bishop-Moore is interested in retaining the position. Paul Finnicum motioned to nominate Dawn to be secretary. Marcy Cobell seconded the motion. Passed by All

#### ➤ Request AISA Task Force Continue Working on Guiding Documents

- Language preservation and promotion
- Digital literacy
- Connection to community and tribal strengths to ensure students' education is relevant to them

#### ➤ More Guidance Regarding Information to Include in Model Lessons/Guidance

Morgan Smith reviewed the documents on Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) and Grief.

The MMIP would be incorporated into restorative practices and building an understanding of healthy relationships. Jordann indicated that she believes a position statement could be written to affirm that MMIP needs to be a part of the education system. Although the curriculum needs to be age appropriate, it is essential at the lower grades.

For grief, there was discussion around leave and allowing leave when there is loss, which is a local control issue. Chairperson suggested a position statement also on grief for districts to consider policies.

If members have suggestions for the drafts, they should send them to [morgan.smith@mt.gov](mailto:morgan.smith@mt.gov).

#### ➤ Revisiting the Regalia and Language Protection Statements

These are how future position statements should be written, with brief information on the position and then the asks in a one-page document. Chairperson Forster indicated that positions need to be continued to be written.

Paul Finnicum indicated he will draft a statement for funding for grow your own—teachers being identified from local community members.

Jordann suggested the in-person meeting be working and do committees to work on statements.

Jonathan Eagleman moved to extend the next MACIE meeting by three hours and making it a working meeting. Jeremy MacDonald seconded the motion. Passed by all.

Jonathan Eagleman moved to have the next MACIE meeting (in-person) on April 5 instead of April 4 and move the location from Helena to Billings. Levi Black Eagle seconded the motion. Passed by all.

### New Business

➤ New items of focus by OPI for curriculum

These need to be collaborative, not just asking OPI to do something.

Some issues were discussed.

It was decided through consensus that this will be at the next MACIE meeting with creating committees and drafting of initiatives.

Chairperson Forster will reach out to Superintendent Arntzen's office to request a legal person attend the meeting to give advice on laws and rules.

➤ OPI American Indian Student Achievement Restructure

Don Wetzel gave information regarding the new structure for the Tribal Student Achievement, Relations, and Resiliency Unit, as Carrie Gopher resigned as the unit director of American Indian Student Achievement. Her position will be filled as an achievement specialist.

### Public Comment

Paul Finnicum indicated Impact Aid funding is being held up at the federal level due to the Omnibus bill not being passed.

Dugan Coburn motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Jeremy MacDonald seconded the motion. Passed by all.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

    /s/ Dawn Bishop-Moore

Approved April 4, 2023