



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

MACIE Meeting  
May 3, 2023  
Minutes - Approved

Members Present

Dugan Coburn Urban – Great Falls  
Michelle Crazy Fort Belknap Tribes  
Jordann Forster Montana Federation  
of Public Employees  
Megan Gourneau Fort Peck Tribes  
Melissa Hammett Urban – Missoula  
Susie Hedalen Board of Public  
Education  
Iris Kill Eagle Little Shell Tribe  
Angela McLean Montana University  
System  
Calli Rusche- Billings Public Schools  
Nicholson  
Don Wetzel Office of Public  
Instruction

Office of Public Instruction/ Board of Public  
Education

Elsie Arntzen Jonathan Eagleman  
McCall Flynn Joan Franke  
Crystal Hickman Morgan Murakami  
Shantel Niederstadt Annette Young

Members Absent

Rodney Bird Bureau of Indian  
Education  
Marcy Cobell Montana Indian  
Education Association  
Dawn Bishop-Moore Indian Impact Schools  
of Montana  
Norma Bixby Northern Cheyenne  
Tribe  
Levi Black Eagle Crow Tribe  
Michael Dolson Confederated Salish  
& Kootenai Tribes  
Harold Dusty Bull Blackfoot Tribe  
Paul Finnicum MTSBA Indian School  
Board Caucus  
Hilary Gourneau Tribal Head Start  
Jeremy MacDonald School Administrators  
of Montana  
Cory Sangrey-Billy Tribal Colleges  
John Stiffarm Class 7

The Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education (MACIE) meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jordann Forster at 9:04 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said, an opening greeting by Dugan Coburn was given, and roll call was taken.

❖ Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the April 4, 2023, meeting were reviewed. Dugan Coburn moved to approve the minutes as written and Michelle Crazy seconded. Passed by all.

❖ Ex-officio Reports

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Arntzen discussed the Alternative Assessment Testing Program, the Indian Language Immersion Program, Montana Teacher of the Year nominations, and tribal legislation update. The Superintendent discussed in detail her understanding of the revision of laws for Indian Education for All.

❖ Indian Education Unit Reports

Tribal Student Achievement, Relations, and Resiliency

Donnie Wetzel discussed the youth and tribal leaders conferences held in April to bring schools and tribes to the table and build relationships. He also discussed tribal consultation to bring tribes and school districts together to discuss programs.

❖ Chairperson Report

Chairperson Jordann Forster said she is grateful Montana supports through law the wearing of regalia at graduation ceremonies.

Jordann also discussed MACIE consider responses to common novels when challenged. She and Calli Rusche-Nicholson will work on this to bring a position statement to a future meeting.

Also, Jordann suggested MACIE members draft position statements on what they believe MACIE needs to consider.

Chairperson Forster will send out a poll regarding scheduling the June meeting as there is a mandatory Office of Indian Education meeting for Indian education directors and project managers.

❖ Information Session

National Indian Education Survey

Shantel Niederstadt discussed the National Assessment of Education Program and the National Indian Education Study on students' perspectives on their history, cultures, traditions, language, study habits, and school participation. Montana has participated since 2009 (every four years – since 2005) except 2015. [2019 Results](#)

Shantel asked if MACIE would be willing to do a letter of support. Dugan Coburn moved to write a letter of support. Iris Kill Eagle seconded the motion. Passed by all. Jordann Forster will write this.

❖ Old Business

Budget Update and Meeting Schedule

Jordann Forster indicated she and Donnie Wetzel will be meeting with Jay Phillips to finalize the MACIE budget. She reviewed the meeting schedule for 2024.

Jordann talked about what had decided in the April meeting regarding information would like more information for.

- Lawsuit – This will go to court in June.
- Data Report – will have information on this at a later meeting.
- Deficiency Notice – there will be an update in the coming year on the process for deficiency determinations. This updated process will be presented to the Board of Public Education (BPE) at this month's meeting.

❖ New Business

MACIE Mission and Goals

Discussion regarding what MACIE should discuss regarding goals and position statements took place. Those brought up were:

- Indigenous standards (social standards now have IEFA standard at each grade except kindergarten)
- novels
- smudging
- honor songs
- ceremonies protocols
- Awards to schools [Recognition Award Nomination Form](#)

Angela talked about the tuition fee waiver.

❖ Public Comment

McCall Flynn shared that the IEFA bill says this is required by education agencies. The seal of biliteracy applications were received. The BPE will announce by the end of May who receives this.

Calli Rusche-Nicholson motioned to adjourn the meeting and Dugan Coburn seconded the motion. Passed by all. The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for June 7 at 9:00 a.m.

/s/ Dawn Bishop-Moore  
Approved June 7, 2023