



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

MACIE Meeting  
 March 7, 2024  
 Minutes - Draft

Members Present (\* in person)

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Dawn Bishop-Moore       | Indian Impact Schools of Montana       |
| Norma Bixby             | Northern Cheyenne Tribe                |
| Levi Black Eagle*       | Crow Tribe                             |
| Marcy Cobell            | Montana Indian Education Association   |
| Dugan Coburn*           | Urban – Great Falls                    |
| Michelle Crazy          | Fort Belknap Tribes                    |
| Paul Finnicum           | MTSBA Indian School Board Caucus       |
| Jordann Forster*        | Montana Federation of Public Employees |
| Hilary Gourneau         | Tribal Head Start                      |
| Susie Hedalen           | Board of Public Education              |
| Iris Kill Eagle*        | Little Shell Tribe                     |
| Carrie Kouba*           | Office of Public Instruction           |
| Angela McLean           | Montana University System              |
| Calli Rusche-Nicholson* | Billings Public Schools                |
| John Well-Off-Man*      | Class 7 Teachers                       |

Office of Public Instruction/ Board of Public Education

|              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| McCall Flynn | Joan Franke*  |
| Rick Wooton  | Annette Young |

Guests

|                  |                      |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Earl Arkinson*   | Havre Public Schools |
| Elaine Arkinson* |                      |

Members Absent

|                    |                                       |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Rodney Bird        | Bureau of Indian Education            |
| Michael Dolson     | Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes |
| Harold Dusty Bull  | Blackfeet Tribe                       |
| Megan Gourneau     | Fort Peck Tribes                      |
| Melissa Hammett    | Urban – Missoula                      |
| Jeremy MacDonald   | School Administrators of Montana      |
| Cory Sangrey-Billy | Tribal Colleges                       |

The Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jordann Forster at 10:30 a.m. Chairperson Forster welcomed everyone and roll call was taken.

Minutes

The minutes of the January 3, 2024, meeting were reviewed. Paul Finnicum moved to approve the minutes as written and Dawn Bishop-Moore and Callie Rusche-Nicholson seconded the motion. Passed by all.

## Ex-Officio Reports - Superintendent of Public Instruction

Rick Wooton provided information regarding The Yellow Kidney lawsuit. He reviewed the chronology of events. The trial date is currently set for July 29, 2024; however, in January there was a joint motion to stay proceedings for six months due to the impact of House Bill 338 and information received from discovery, parties are optimistic about settling the case and want to explore negotiations. The judge agreed to this. There will be a status conference this afternoon.

Due to HB338 there is an enforcement mechanism for how districts are spending IEFA funding. There is concern regarding schools opting out of funding and not doing Indian Education for All (IEFA). There is requirement for IEFA in the accreditation standards and the districts do need to show how they are implementing IEFA. The Integrated Strategic Action Plan (ISAP) will be reviewed by the IEFA unit. The [Accreditation Status Criteria Reference Guide](#) was shared. There is also concern about the report only coming out halfway through the school year. There will be a Legislative Committee for Education Interim Committee is meeting next week and McCall Flynn anticipates that might be a topic of conversation regarding when implementation actually happens.

Carrie Kouba will find out what happens to monies if they are taken from a school. There was discussion about ideas for what to do with the returned funding, including doing best practices trainings around the state and field trips for students.

## Indian Education Unit Reports – Tribal Student Achievement and Relations Unit

Carrie Kouba reviewed what the Tribal Student Achievement and Relations Unit is doing, including Tribal Education Summit and Youth Conference, Transitional Resilience in partnership with State Systemic Improvement Plan, Graduate Profile, morning announcements, supporting schools through restorative practices, wraparound for students, Indigenous Whole Learner Relational Framework, and supporting student voice in the schools.

The American Indian and Minority Achievement council will bring recommendations to the Board of Regents regarding have American Indian faculty and student voice in search processes. There will be a guide developed for this.

## Chairperson Report

Chairperson Forster provided information regarding the Western Native Voice and Montana Indian Education Association (MIEA) conferences and the Great Falls Community Pow Wow. Marcy Cobell provided more information about the MIEA conference. MACIE members provided information regarding other conferences and activities.

Angela McLean indicated that enrollment at the university system schools is up six percent. Graduates have increased 25% and retention has grown ten percentage points over the last decade. Persistence from fall to spring semesters was 90.2%.

Jordann asked Paul Finnicum to do a report at a future MACIE meeting on the outcomes regarding the discussion at the Indian School Board Caucus.

Jordann Forster indicated she had received a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) from the Superintendent's Office regarding the funding for MACIE meetings. She is not sure why a MOU

was done instead of just a letter and will not be signing it. The council through consensus agreed Jordann should not sign. The Superintendent will be invited to the May 1 meeting to discuss this.

Meeting resumed at 1:20 p.m.

Carrie Kouba discussed job positions in Indian Education that are open/will soon be opening.

### New Business

#### ❖ Roles on MACIE

Chairperson Forster welcomed John Well-Off-Man as the Class 7 Teachers representative. Jeremy MacDonald will be the Chippewa-Cree representative after the Board of Public Education (BPE) meeting in March, and his old position School Administrators of Montana will be open. She also reviewed the other positions.

Ms. Forster indicated she wants member organizations to be well represented and to hear from them.

#### ❖ IEFA Funding Guidance

Jordann Forster and Calli Rusche-Nicolson have discussed whether MACIE would like to do a letter with recommendations regarding this.

Suggestions for implementation of IEFA:

- ✓ questions on standardized tests regarding Indian education content
- ✓ list of presenters for schools – however, Jordann does not want to endorse names of specific people to present in schools
- ✓ updating of [The Framework](#) (page 44) of what certain sized schools should be doing and [Funding Spectrum Guide](#) of how to spend funding

Calli Rusche-Nicolson also suggested there needs to be recommendations for achievement gap funding.

There was discussion regarding recommendations for what to do regarding districts that are not incorporating IEFA or not spending/inappropriately spending the IEFA funding.

Jordann suggested a congratulatory letter regarding efforts in IEFA. She indicated she will draft a generic letter/certificate. Carrie Kouba will inquire as how to view what districts indicate they are doing regarding implementation.

Jordann asked the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) to send out the regalia statement again to the schools. There was consensus on that.

A committee composed of Jordann Forster, Calli Rusche-Nicolson, Levi Black Eagle, and Dugan Coburn to make suggestions regarding revisions to funding and implementation guidance for IEFA and Student Achievement.

### Old Business - MACIE goals

The current goals were reviewed and suggestions for changes were provided:

- ✓ positive attendance – either under 1 or 2
- ✓ possibly student engagement, attendance, graduation rates could possibly be a 5th goal
- ✓ goal 4 may need to be adjusted but not sure how
- ✓ educator shortage
- ✓ goals toward IEFA
- ✓ transportation
- ✓ barriers

No committees were created. MACIE will continue to discuss goals in the coming meetings.

Marcy Cobell suggested having a form for feedback on what is happening, both good and bad.

### Public Comment

Ivan Small, former educator and concerned person: He talked about student achievement and schools that serve Native American students, especially those on the Crow and Northern Cheyenne Reservations.

Annette Vicedo Young, Comprehensive System of Personnel Development Specialist, Office of Public Instruction, gave information regarding the Montana Recruitment Project through School Administrators of Montana to assist schools in finding critical positions.

Iris Kill Eagle motioned to adjourn the meeting and Dugan Coburn seconded the motion. Passed by all. The meeting was adjourned at 3:17 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 1 via Zoom.