



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

MACIE Meeting
 November 6, 2024
 Minutes - Draft

Members Present

Dawn Bishop-Moore	Indian Impact Schools of Montana
Norma Bixby	Northern Cheyenne Tribe
Levi Black Eagle	Crow Tribe
Michelle Crazy	Fort Belknap Tribes
Marcy Cobell	Montana Indian Education Association
Dugan Coburn	Urban – Great Falls
Jordann Forster	Montana Federation of Public Employees
Brooke Gondara	Office of Public Instruction
Iris Kill Eagle	Little Shell Tribe
Jeremy MacDonald	Chippewa Cree Tribe
Angela McLean	Montana University System
Calli Rusche-Nicholson	Billings Public Schools
Cory Sangrey-Billy	Tribal Colleges

Guests

Dylan Klapmeier	Governor’s Office
Edward Parisian	School Administrators of Montana
(nominee)	
Trish Schrieber	Community Choice Schools Commission

Office of Public Instruction/ Board of Public Education

Matt Bell	Patrick Cates
Joan Franke	Crystal Hickman
Julie Jeffers	Mike Jetty
Jennifer Stadum	Rob Stutz

Members Absent

Rodney Bird	Bureau of Indian Education
Hilary Gourneau	Tribal Head Start
Melissa Hammett	Urban – Missoula
Susie Hedalen	Board of Public Education
Rena Lambert	Fort Peck Tribes
John Well-Off-Man	Class 7 Teacher

The Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education (MACIE) meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Chairperson Jordann Forster. Mike Jetty did the honor song, and roll call was done.

❖ Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the October 2, 2024, meeting were reviewed. Information was noted that needs to be changed - the next meeting date and Jeremy MacDonald representing Chippewa Cree Tribe, not School Administrators of Montana. Calli Rusche-Nicholson motioned to approve the minutes as amended and Levi Black Eagle seconded the motion. Passed by all.

❖ Ex-Officio Reports

✓ Montana University System

The law school at the University of Montana dedicated space to Native American success efforts. The university system had an Elouise Cobell event yesterday.

There was growth in enrollment of American Indian students is up six percent across most of the university system schools, retention is up slightly, and graduation and completion rates are up significantly.

The OCHE has been funded for an additional seven years with a GEAR-UP grant.

❖ American Indian Education Administrative Reports

✓ Indian Education for All (IEFA)

Mike Jetty and Julie Jeffers provided information regarding updates to Office of Public Instruction (OPI) lessons; lessons from the field to be posted on the website; the new three-week webinar series regarding the graphic novel *Thunderous* starting this afternoon; professional development and resources for American Indian Heritage Month, Veterans, and Thanksgiving; and partnerships. The plan for the *Thunderous webinar* is to have this book study as a panel at the Best Practices Conference in the spring (no firm dates yet).

The Unit is currently looking for a director and interviews will be next week.

✓ Tribal Student Achievement and Relations

Dr. Brooke Gondara indicated the TSAR unit is currently working with the Continuous School Improvement Unit to support their work by going into schools doing school improvement visits. Brooke and Senior Manager and Director of School Improvement visited New Mexico, meeting with state leaders and then visiting schools to look at models and strategies that may lend themselves to more choice and voice in Montana.

The TSAR unit had its strategic planning and will be prioritizing activities for the next year.

The team has been doing schools visits and professional development around Indigenous Whole Child Framework, restorative practices, graduate profile. RISE has started up for the year and schools have been using the morning greetings.

The unit is working on hiring another Student Achievement Specialist. The first deadline for applications is today.

The quarterly tribal consultation meeting is next week.

❖ Informational Presentations

✓ Proposed Cell Phone Ban in Schools

Dylan Klapmeier indicated that prior to the current school year the governor sent a letter to district superintendents and trustees throughout the state encouraging them to adopt a cellphone free classroom policy. This was not a mandate to reduce distractions. The governor had a round table with Superior Schools regarding their policy.

The Governor's Office will be discussing with Health and Human Services regarding knowledge and resources for student to appropriately access online tools. They will be having discussions also with parents and students.

✓ Ripple: The Center for Education and Ecosystem Studies

Chris Pavlovich and Rayelynn Brandl discussed bringing partners together from around the state to help bring STEM professional development for K-8 teachers (EcosySTEM). They plan to connect local funds of knowledge and land-based learning to rural schools in Montana. They will recruit 30 teachers for this. They have a team of about 35 partners. They will produce professional development modules focused on ecological systems and monitoring for climate change, resiliency, and innovation. The professional development will be both online and in person.

Ripple is looking for advisory board members.

MACIE will provide a letter of support for the grant being applied for.

✓ Superintendent of Public Instruction Office

During the 2023 legislative session House Bill 394 would have provided the ability for schools with the tribes of Montana. This did not pass; However, a [bill for public charter schools](#) passed along with another bill that had language regarding "culturally rooted instruction aligned to a learning environment for English language learners or an Indian language immersion program to pupils of a district participating in a multidistrict agreement." [20-3-363](#) Because of those two pieces of legislation OPI is putting together a bill that would allow public charter schools that addresses the unique cultural issues of the community in which that school is located.

The OPI is looking for feedback from MACIE members regarding the proposal language.

Public Charter schools in Montana are have to comply with accreditation and assessment requirements, and so need to meet IEFA standards.

Patrick Cates discussed the Paraprofessional (Para) Pathways Project training for special education (SPED) technician license with possibility of going on to becoming a SPED teacher. There are several levels of the training. Paras who are working in a district will get an incentive of \$20 for taking each module in the technician pathway course set.

Although these were developed for paraprofessionals in special education it is available free for anyone to take. Professional development units will be available.

OPI is working with Dawson Community College for this program. Paras would need to complete the modules before entrance to the program. Once complete the candidate would then be able to transfer to a four-year college to become a special education teacher.

OPI is hoping to have these modules available in December.

There would need to be legislation to create SPED technician license.

❖ Chairperson Report

Chairperson Forster indicated she would be sending out letters to request nominations for new representation from the Blackfoot Tribe, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, and the Bureau of Indian Education.

Jordann congratulated Susie Hedalen on her election as Superintendent of Public Instruction. She will do a survey for MACIE members to ask questions to get feedback from the superintendent elect.

Jordann honored Jennifer Stadum and Joan Franke who will be leaving OPI in the next weeks.

❖ Public Comment

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 8, at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom.