

Fairbanks North Star Borough School District

Board Diversity Committee

Regular Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

April 9, 2015

A. PRELIMINARIES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Bett Schaffhauser at 5:35 p.m. in the Board Room of the FNSBSD Administrative Center at 520 Fifth Avenue.

2. Roll Call / Introductions (0:58)

Members present:

Alex Amegashie
Jo Ann Borges
Heidi Haas (telephonically)
Georgia Sandgren
Larnetia Skipps

Administrative support present:

Bett Schaffhauser

Members absent:

Michael Campbell
Dorothy Jones
Bruce Scott
Ava Vent
Beka Zerbst

Guest:

Carlos Gloria, Co-President, Lathrop High School Diversity Council

3. Approval of Agenda (1:33)

Georgia Sandgren made a motion to approve the agenda. Larnetia Skipps seconded the motion and it passed without opposition.

4. Approval of the Minutes (1:48)

Minutes of the March 12, 2015, meeting were reviewed. Larnetia Skipps made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Georgia Sandgren seconded the motion and it passed without opposition. Bett Schaffhauser called Heidi Haas telephonically. (5:10)

B. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

C. REPORTS

1. Diversity Action Plan, Presentation to School Board (5:45): Bett Schaffhauser reported she presented the Workplace Diversity Action Plan to the School Board on Tuesday, April 7th. A copy of the final report was included in committee members' packet. Bett reviewed minor changes to the plan since the committee last saw it. She also shared information about the two actions that were added to Goal #6 (7:40):

- Institute relationship building with a student and community focus as a primary objective, and
- Participate in Eielson Air Force Base Community Partnership Initiative program for Public Education Employment Opportunities for Air Force Spouses.

The Board adopted the plan at the April 7th meeting. The administration will implement the plan this school year and continue through the 2016 school year. There was a discussion about how the plan will be evaluated and how this plan framework will be developed by committees tasked with carrying out the various actions for each goal.

D. OLD BUSINESS

None

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Lathrop High School Diversity Council:** (14:40) Bett Schaffhauser introduced Carlos Garcia, co-president of the Lathrop Diversity Council, and invited him to talk about its activities. Their biggest project this year was a recycling program. The program was very successful the first semester but due to a drop in participation the program ceased recently. Two main activities the council did this year were a multicultural assembly at the beginning of the year and a talent show later in the year. Carlos shared more information about the various cultural activities of the council followed by a question and answer session. Committee members made suggestions about how they might support the council and how students might increase and maintain their membership.
2. **Planning for *Taking a Stand Against Racism* Event:** (41:27) Bett Schaffhauser shared that she received information from her counterpart in Anchorage about this national event sponsored by the YWCA to eliminate racism and empower women. Local organizations can chose to participate by organizing events between April 23-26. A packet of information was shared with the committee and a motion was made and seconded to discuss what kind of event we might be able to host. Discussion took place about age appropriate events. Agreement was reached to do a simple event this year since time is short and then work on it in more detail for next school year.

Discussion took place about the status of the new weapons policy. (55:55) Discussion took place about the status of the LGBT resolution. It will be brought before the Board in the fall. (58:06)

F. INFORMATION (1:04:01)

1. **America's Cultures Week Potluck Celebration** is on April 16th at Ryan Middle School at 5:30 p.m. The event is sponsored by English Language Learners, Alaska Native Education and Migrant Education programs. All are invited to attend.
2. **ANE End of Year Picnic** will be on Friday evening, May 8th. The location has not been determined although it may be at Anne Wien Elementary since it worked well there last year.
3. Next meeting is: May 14, 2015. That will be the last meeting of the school year.

G. CLOSING COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS (1:07:03)

- Bett Schaffhauser will draft an annual report for the May 14th meeting and get a volunteer to present it to the Board at the June 2nd meeting.
- Alex Amegashie expressed his thanks to Bett Schaffhauser for her efforts on the Workplace Diversity Action Plan. JoAnn Borges mentioned that a diversity plan is also being worked on by the City's diversity council. There was a discussion about how the two groups might meet and share ideas and work on goals.

H. ADJOURNMENT (1:17:00)

Alex Amegashie made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.