

Fairbanks North Star Borough School District

Board Diversity Committee

Regular Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

November 29, 2018

**A. PRELIMINARIES**

**1. Call to Order**

David Rucker called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm in ADC Board Room of the FNSBSD Administrative Center at 520 Fifth Avenue.

**2. Roll Call / Introductions**

Members present:

Sharon McConnell

Flora Roddy

Carrie Bragioner

Alyssa Quintyne

Ashley Strauch

Jazzanne Gordon-Fretwell

Administrative support present:

Shayna Lunt

David Rucker

Members Not in Attendance:

Michael Angaiak (excused)

Maxine Dibert

Rose O'Hara-Jolley

Marilyn Russell (excused)

Kenya Edwards

Guest:

Rodney Gaskins

Joanne VanFleteren

**3. Approval of Agenda**

David Rucker made a motion to approve the agenda. Everyone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**4. Approval of the Minutes**

Members reviewed the September 27, 2018 meeting minutes and David Rucker made a motion to approve them. Everyone agreed and it carried unanimously.

**B. REPORTS**

1. Rodney Gaskins and David Rucker—NCBI (*National Coalition Building Institute*) Update
  - i. Exposure Workshops are a simplified version of what they learned at NCBI. A way to reach across cultural barriers (i.e. poverty, education, social status) and to teach skills to decrease discrimination. We hope that we can bring this into the schools and community to bring people together.
  - ii. The group who went from Fairbanks was a diverse group of people. Through the workshop and constant conversation and skills learned, there was a better understanding of another's story.
  - iii. NCBI is about the sharing of stories and the sharing of pain and lessons learned from someone else's experiences with discrimination. The point of these workshops is to create and develop the seeds of empathy.
  - iv. Ignorance is one of the root causes for discrimination. Through conversation, we can share our experiences with one another and empower one another to make change within our own community.
  - v. Kate LaPlaunt shared at the NCBI workshop that this could affect the classrooms. This program is a great skill for Teachers to have to break down barriers for students.

- vi. March 28-29, 2019. Two full-day sessions will be available to 40-50 people who will be chosen (through an application process) to teach the workshop to become trainers of this skillset. The hope is that a wide group of employees across the district will come together to learn these valuable skills of crushing cultural barriers.
2. Faces of Fairbanks
- i. On November 15, 2018, the subcommittee for “The Faces of Fairbanks” met (Flora Roddy, Carrie Bragonier and David Rucker) and brainstormed ideas for recruiting.
  - ii. David Rucker shared that by utilizing the School District’s website, we could share a link to The Faces of Fairbanks. There are opportunities to link diversity pages with EEO and Title IX.
  - iii. Carrie Bragonier shared that by recruiting students, who are studying photography, or writing, and getting them involved in the project, we can have a more diverse group.
  - iv. Flora shared her idea of profiling Diversity Committee members as a jumping off point for The Faces of Fairbanks. By asking employees to volunteer, it gives us time to work out the permissions of including students.
  - v. Ashley Strauch asked how the Face of Fairbanks would be found on the website? Could we utilize the schools Facebook page to recruit students? Transportation for a student who is taking pictures? Potentially giving the opportunity to students at different schools.
  - vi. Elizabeth Holm shared having student led clubs, where students meet and learn about different cultures each month. Having the district support the immersion of cultures. She suggested that schools host events that encourages the sharing of cultures.

**C. OLD BUSINESS**

- 1. NA

**D. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Resolutions to renew**

- i. Resolutions from each year are put on the agenda for School Board meetings for the following year.
- ii. For Black History Month, there will be a coloring and writing contest that is sponsored by the NAACP. They are hoping to have more advertisement this year to promote participation.
- iii. National Disability Awareness Month—Rose O’Harra-Jolley met with a representative from Access Alaska that gave ideas of how to draft the resolution. She mentioned that by including the community in writing the resolution, it could be more powerful and meaningful.
- iv. Alyssa Quintyne has met with a few community members
- v. Sharon McConnell shared that in a school board work session that teachers want enough time to plan for activities around these resolutions. Teachers want a few months advanced notice to plan for upcoming resolutions that are upcoming.
- vi. There was a discussion about drafting a resolution and the best way to go about that. Who drafts it? Who vets the resolution?
- vii. Rose O’Harra-Jolley offered to be the Chair for the subcommittee.
  - Members of the sub-committee: Ashely Strauch, Elizabeth Holm, Alyssa Quintyne
- viii. Ashley Strauch motioned to create a subcommittee to develop a resolution supporting disability awareness. Alyssa seconded the motion. It carried unanimously.

**E. INFORMATION**

1. David Rucker welcomed a new Diversity Committee member, Elizabeth Holm from North Pole, AK.
2. Ashley Strauch shared her thanks to all who participated in the School Board meeting for the LGBTQ Resolution, especially Alyssa Quintyne for her help drafting the resolution and talking to the community.
  - i. David Rucker thanked Tim Doran for his help in getting the resolution in front of the board.

**F. ADJOURNMENT**

David Rucker made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jazzanne Gordon-Fretwell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:33 pm.