

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #135 (2006-2007)

December 4, 2006

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF MINORITY EDUCATION CONCERNS  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ASD Goal #3: *Ensure public accountability through... effective communication with students, staff, parents, community and government at all levels.*

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the appointment of two new members to the Minority Education Concerns Advisory Committee (MECAC) for terms expiring on June 20, 2009

PERTINENT FACTS:

The Anchorage School Board has established one advisory committee to the School Board. This committee is the Minority Education Concerns Advisory Committee (MECAC) whose primary purpose is to advise the School Board and the Superintendent on a regular basis regarding 1) the educational program as it relates to the education of minority students K-12 Districtwide; 2) citizen involvement in school activities on minority educational issues; 3) specific minority community concerns; and 4) such matters with respect to the District at large as may be identified by the School Board or the Superintendent. There are other issues of importance for the Minority Education Concerns Advisory Committee (MECAC) as outlined in the Guidelines.

At their meeting on October 18, 2006, the MECAC made a motion to eliminate the interview process for this one time and accept the two current applicants for the MECAC, based upon final approval by the School Board. The motion passed unanimously to recommend Toc Soneoulay and Fa'aana Tosi to the School Board for membership on the Committee (Attachments A & B). Both candidates are well qualified to assist the Committee in their efforts to enhance success for all of our students

CC/RG/mh

Attachments

Prepared & Approved by: Rhonda Gardner, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction

**ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
APPLICATION FORM  
MINORITY EDUCATION CONCERNS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Minority Education Concerns Advisory Committee is an advisory committee to the Anchorage School Board. The Committee is comprised of volunteer citizens who meet the following qualifications:

- interested in improving education for District students and a commitment to the purpose of the District MECAC;
- willing and able to attend meetings regularly;
- committed to working toward increased communication with the community in the conduct of MECAC affairs and;
- not an employee of the Anchorage School District.

The stated purpose of the committee is to review and make recommendations to the School Board relating to the education of minority students K through 12 Districtwide.

The MECAC holds at least one meeting each month; subcommittees also meet. The total time requirement of members is approximately 10 to 12 hours monthly.

NAME OF APPLICANT: Toc Soneoulay DATE: 8/16/06

STREET ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

CITY: Anchorage STATE: AK ZIP: 99502

TELEPHONE: (HOME) [REDACTED] (WORK) [REDACTED]

1. In which high school attendance area do you reside? Dimond High School
2. Do you wish to be identified as a member of a minority group?  Yes  No
3. Have you been a member of MECAC in the past?  No  
If yes, how many terms have you served? \_\_\_\_\_  
When? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Can you commit to 10 to 12 hours per month?  Yes  
If yes, check all that apply:  days  noon only  
 evenings  weekends
5. Years of residence in Municipality? 3

6. Do you presently have, or have you had, children in the Anchorage School District? How many children?

No

7. Where did you receive your formal education? Eastern Oregon University

8. List your involvement with any educational activities:

Mentor Southeast Asian youth on the importance of continued education.  
Tutor ESL to Southeast Asian adults.  
Volunteer at McLaughlin Youth Center.  
Contributed to a Parents as Liaisons in Our Schools (PALS) Video.  
Facilitate Girls' Circle groups through the YWCA and the 21st Century program.

9. List other community/fraternal/church related activities you participate in:

Serve on the Board of Directors for Asian Alaskan Culture Center.  
Serve on the Board of Directors for Wat Lao of Anchorage.  
Provide interpreting services to the Lao, Thai and Hmong community.  
Teach youth traditional Lao folk dance to perform for various community events (Meet the World, Asian Culture Night, Worlds Fare, AACC Night).

10. Why would you want to serve on MECAC:

To stimulate discussions about the issues associated with Southeast Asian youth growing up in a bicultural family, the difficulties of living in two cultural worlds, the dilemmas confronting their parents and how each component greatly effects their journey through the education system.  
To be a voice for Southeast Asian parents as well as encourage them to participate and contribute to their children's education through cooperation and teamwork.

11. What contributions can you make? What are your strengths?

My enthusiasm and commitment.  
My knowledge and experience growing up bicultural/bilingual.  
The connection I have with the Southeast Asian community through ongoing advocacy.  
The positive relationships I've built with various agencies throughout Anchorage both as a Lao interpreter and an Administrative Coordinator at the Refugee Assistance & Immigration Services at Catholic Social Services.

12. How did you become informed about the opportunity to serve on this committee?

Anchorage School District Website and Ms. Damito Owens.

13. All applications should be forwarded to:

Anchorage School District  
Assistant Superintendent, Instruction  
Anchorage School District  
P. O. Box 196614  
Anchorage, AK 99519-6614  
Telephone: 742-4321

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NAME OF APPLICANT: Fa'aana Tosi DATE: 8-17-06

STREET ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

CITY: Anchorage STATE: AK ZIP: 99517

TELEPHONE: (HOME) [REDACTED] (WORK) [REDACTED]

1. In which high school attendance area do you reside? West High School
2. Do you wish to be identified as a member of a minority group?  Yes  No
3. Have you been a member of MECAC in the past?  No  
If yes, how many terms have you served? \_\_\_\_\_  
When? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Can you commit to 10 to 12 hours per month?  Yes  
If yes, check all that apply:  days  noon only  
 evenings  weekends
5. Years of residence in Municipality? 15 years

Do you presently have, or have you had, children in the Anchorage School District? How many children?

Yes - three

Where did you receive your formal education? San Diego, California and UAA

List your involvement with any educational activities:

University of Alaska Anchorage TRIO Program, Western Universities Financial Aid Association Conference, Central Parent Advisory Council, Willow Crest Elementary PTA and West High PTSA, National "No Child Left Behind" Conference and a graduate of Leadership Anchorage

List other community/fraternal/church related activities you participate in:

Board member of Anchorage Cultural Council, Older Persons Action Group, Anchorage Urban League, Mt. View Boys & Girls Club Advisory Committee, and Mt. View Wood and Band Steering Committee. Member of Bridge Builders and the Anchorage Youth Development Coalition. Assist with Reclaiming Futures, Samoan Assembly Churches Youth Activities, Samoan Pentecostal Churches Youth Activities, Alaska Christian Ministries Association, Hawaiian Civic Club, National Night Out Event, Anchorage Neighborhood Housing Association-Mt. View Unity Team, Keirina Disaster Fundraiser Event, and KeAloha Dance Club. Guest speaker to Alaska Youth Environment Association, Mayor's Diversity Coordinating Committee, Salvation Army Gilmerrow, YWCA, Older Persons Action Group and CPAC PALS program. Attend Clark Jr. High School's cultural events, Clark Jr. High's Remodeling efforts, Mt. View Community Council Meetings, Fairview Community Council Meetings, Northeast Community Council Meeting and Special Olympics Ribbon Cutting event. Volunteered for political campaigns: Tony Knowles, Bethya Davis, Max Chuenberg, Bill Wielowkowski, and Diane Benson. Testified at the Alaska State School Board, Mayor's Diversity Task Force and the Anchorage Assembly. I've also submitted a Letter of Intent to run for School Board Election 2006. These are just to name a few.

Why would you want to serve on MECAC:

To be a bold voice for Pacific Islander youth and make an impact with parents made accountable within our schools.

What contributions can you make? What are your strengths?

I have a personable approach towards any situation and can ease tension within a room with my presence. I am passionate about education and the security of Anchorage's future. I am a risk taker and a humble individual who fears GOD. I am approachable by people of all ages, and have a comforting strength that is refreshing. I am also knowledgeable about the Samoan and Tongan way of life and its respectful histories. My personal life experiences has equipped me to have a broader understanding and connect easily with youth and adults on so many levels. I have all of myself to give as its my nature to be a servant to others in a respectful way.

How did you become informed about the opportunity to serve on this committee?

Damito Owens

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