

**ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**

MINORITY EDUCATION CONCERNS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

August 19, 2004

The Minority Education Concerns Committee met on Thursday, August 19, 2004, at 12:00 in Room #202 in the ASD Administration Building.

1. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 12:07 p.m. by William Johnson

Members Present

William Johnson
Alfredia Tyler
Diane Heard
Phyllis Morrell
Richard Benavides

Helen Sharratt
Skip Hrin
Angela Jimenez

Excused

Atisa Logo
Jesse Vizcocho
Charlene Gibbs

Others Present

Dan Loring, visitor
Senator Bettye Davis
Debbie Bogart, Director, Community Education
Jan Christensen, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION

Moved by Richard Benavides to approve the agenda for the
Seconded by Skip Hrin August 19, 2004, Meeting

VOTE

Motion passed unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION

Moved by Richard Benavides to approve the minutes from the
Seconded by Diane Heard May 20, 2004 meeting

Discussion on the minutes followed, but no changes were made. Richard Benavides called the question.

VOTE:

Motion passed unanimously.

4. The committee discussed their Year-End-Report, which will be presented to the School Board on September 13, 2004.

- Skip Hrin had some questions about the Curriculum committee's report. Alfredia said they did a lot of work via email. They did review the Alaska Studies and Anatomy/Physiology textbooks. Alfredia Tyler worked with Phyllis Morrell on it. Alfredia said she did not have enough time to work with NCLB issues. Alfredia wants to know if parents are having their students take advantage of extra tutoring, etc. She said parents have to be involved, too.

- Angela Jimenez said some schools are failing for reasons we can't make up. Jan discussed several things schools have done to get students to help students take the test.

- Diane Heard commented that it is MECC's responsibility to let parents know that responsibility for education is not just that of the District. She suggested a parent committee.

When Senator Bettye Davis arrived at the meeting, Diane moved to table the discussion on curriculum. Richard Benavides seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

- Senator Davis congratulated the committee on the work they are doing. She gave the group the history as to why MECC was formed. She told the members that parents need to know their rights. Many times they are afraid to come forward to the School Board and/or administrators.

- Senator Davis encouraged MECC to support the middle school for east Anchorage by attending the Assembly meeting

- William Johnson thanked Senator Davis for attending the meeting. Since MECC may be looking at a silver anniversary this year, it should be celebrated. William attended a School Board meeting several weeks ago where he heard how the District is using media for public relations.

- Senator Davis said in the next legislative session there would be a rewrite of the foundation Formula. Urban/rural districts currently divide the percentage. The legislature hopes to wipe that out. Lots of changes will be made. MECC members need to come and testify. Constituent airline tickets are available. She encouraged everyone to talk to their representatives and let their voices be heard.

- She asked the group to spend some time at the Muldoon Boys & Girls Club. The legislature might come up with funds for a community center on that

side of town. We need to keep our children involved. There might be a foundation involved. It might have a swimming pool. People need to work together, not against each other.

William, speaking for the committee, said he was sure there would be support for that.

- Senator Davis asked if there were any questions from the MECC. She asked if there was a Board member on the committee. She suggested that if the School Board member isn't able to come, there should be an alternate.

- Diane stated that the School Board and District staff are aware that MECC is important and the members have been pulled into various things. She spoke of concerns about NCLB funding. She said Senator Stevens announced that the Kenai is getting \$20M for Project Grad.

- Senator Davis spoke about NCLB. This is an unfunded mandate. Our state is different than other states. Secretary of Education, Rod Paige hasn't done enough to do what is needed. Parents need to know that.

- Diane said she wrote an educational piece on Quality Schools Initiative vs. No Child Left Behind, but the Daily News hasn't published it, yet.

- Senator Davis said we do need nice buildings. We need to speak up for children. We need to keep our young people here. It is possible we will have a budget surplus this year, but there needs to be a long range plan/design. People need to speak to that, too.

- Richard said the bad part of \$45/barrel for oil is the cost to rural students who have to absorb the cost. Senator Davis said this is why we need to rewrite the Foundation Formula.

- Dan Loring, past president of Fairview Community Council invited members to attend a community council meeting. He is currently on the education committee and invited members to come to the meeting on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:00 (best to come about 7:30). Debbie Bogart said she has worked with Mr. Loring on the Community Council and it is a very good organization.

5. Diane reported that suspension/expulsion data was given to the **Monitoring Committee**. They presented their questions to District staff and the answers they received were in depth, not cursory. The committee has the following recommendations:

- 1) numbers of individuals involved
- 2) Invite District to expose personally the due process
- 3) some assurance that discipline is equitable
- 4) put in handbooks that culture is utilized in making decisions
- 5) when feasible, MECC members should be more visible – not just at particular meetings. One suggestion is to read books to students.

6. Angela asked to add a comment for the **Outreach Committee** report. Mears Middle School invited her to advocate for a Spanish Immersion program at the school. Helen Sharratt volunteered to put the report together and suggested that everyone keep a journal at home so they can have a record of their outreach and important things won't fall through the cracks. William thought this was an excellent suggestion.
7. Debbie Bogart gave out an overview of the Multicultural Conference held at the Native Heritage Center.
8. Angela was on the Capital Request Advisory Committee (CRAC), which recommended a separate bond for the Muldoon Middle School. The new school would help ease overcrowding at area middle schools and be a positive thing for elementary schools in the area, too. There will be two bond packages
9. William turned the gavel over to Ms. Christensen for nomination of Chair for the 2004-2005 school year.

Richard Benavides nominated Diane Heard - Diane declined
Alfredia Tyler nominated William Johnson. Seconded by several members. Richard moved nominations close. There was no dissent. Mr. Johnson agreed to be the Chair.

Mr. Johnson opened nominations for Vice Chair.
Alfredia Tyler nominated Diane Heard - Diane declined with an explanation

Richard Benavides nominated Helen Sharratt. William seconded. Helen declined
There was discussion between Mr. Johnson and Ms. Sharratt about being vice-chair. Helen said there is a core group that does more than their share.

Helen Sharratt nominated Richard Benavides - Richard declined

Diane Heard nominated Alfredia Tyler - Alfredia declined

Diane moved to table the nomination of vice-chair until the next meeting. The Committee agreed.

10. William requested moving agenda items 6, 7, and 8 to the next meeting on September 16. The Committee agreed
11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Skip Hrin will not be at the September 16 meeting. He is taking a counseling/education position at UAA. He feels this can help MECC's goal of Outreach.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.