

**ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**

MINORITY EDUCATION CONCERNS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

September 16, 2004

The Minority Education Concerns Committee met on Thursday, September 16, 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
Atisa Logo
Diane Heard
Charlene Gibbs
Jesse Vizcocho

Helen Sharratt
Phyllis Morrell
Angela Jimenez

Excused

Skip Hrin
Richard Benavides
Alfredia Tyler

Others Present

Macon Roberts, School Board Representative
Margo Bellamy, Director, EEO
Julia Taveprungsenukrel, illaska.com
Denise Marina, AK Youth & Parent Foundation
Jan Christensen, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction
Marsha Haas, Executive Secretary, Instruction

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION

Moved by Diane Heard
Seconded by Helen Sharratt

to approve the agenda for the
September 16, 2004, meeting

VOTE

Motion passed unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION

Moved by Jesse Vizcocho
Seconded by Diane Heard

to approve the minutes from the
August 19, 2004, meeting as
amended

VOTE:

Motion passed unanimously.

4. ACTION

Moved by Diane Heard

for Atisa Logo to serve as

Seconded by Jesse Vizcocho

Vice-Chair for the 2004-2005
school year

VOTE:

Motion passed unanimously.

5. Mr. Johnson discussed the assignment of MECC members to particular attendance areas. Ms. Heard and Ms. Sharratt will take the Eagle River area. Ms. Morrell and Mr. Vizcocho will take the West area. Ms. Jimenez will take the East area and Government Hill Elementary School. Ms. Heard also offered to take Dimond and South.
6. Mr. Johnson suggested a work session with the School Board. Mr. Roberts said the first step would be for everyone to come together as a group to a regular School Board meeting and he invited the committee to do so. It is important to put a face with a name. The second step would be to attend a Board work session and have an extended break with refreshments and time for the Board and MECC members to get to know each other. Mr. Roberts asked the group how they were being received at the schools. He suggested they call the schools ahead of their visits.
7. Mr. Johnson reminded the members that they need to let the community know who they are. Ms. Logo suggested going to the elementary schools to assist during lunch. Another suggestion was going to the elementary schools when they need people to read to classes.
8. There was discussion of the history of the membership boundaries issue. Can members live outside the Anchorage attendance areas? Ms. Gibbs felt the committee could be more liberal in their boundaries so they could get input from more people. Many students from the mat-Su Valley attend ASD.

Ms. Sharratt said there was no clear direction in the guidelines. She suggested a caveat saying those in the Anchorage attendance areas get priority consideration. She felt anyone who was willing to serve should be welcomed.

Mr. Vizcocho said MECC should make their decision and present it to the School Board.

Ms. Christensen said that MECC needs to set the guidelines. The School Board wanted MECC to be clear of the direction they are heading.

Mr. Roberts said Girdwood and Eagle River are okay, but he is not in favor of allowing members from Wasilla and Palmer. The person advising should be affected by the advice they give. They should have a vested interest, such as how the action would affect their children, their schools, their taxes, etc.

Ms. Sharratt wants to add prioritization for Anchorage Bowl residents, but would like to allow members from outside the area. She feels strongly about not excluding anyone. She'd like to put it in writing that we can look outside the Anchorage Bowl, but still prefer those with a vested interest.

Ms. Jimenez would like to see the MECC boundaries the same as the ASD boundaries.

Mr. Vizcocho moved we draft the changes to the guidelines to be presented at the next meeting. Ms. Heard seconded. There was more discussion.

Mr. Johnson said MECC should leave the door open to bring talent to the community.

Helen said members should have ties to the District.

Ms. Logo said diversity is important, not only in race and culture, but also in talent and skills.

The motion carried.

9. For the next meeting, Mr. Johnson asked committee members to come to the next meeting with their goals. Ms. Heard asked if members were staying on their old committees. Any members who want to change committees should notify Mr. Johnson.
10. Ms. Heard moved that Richard Benavides do a session on Robert's Rules of Order. Ms. Sharratt seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
11. Ms. Jimenez asked that the announcements be moved to the top of the agenda.
12. There was discussion about changing the name of the Minority Education Concerns Committee. Ms. Heard moved that Advisory be added to the name, Ms. Sharratt seconded the motion. Discussion followed. It was suggested to take the word Concerns out of the name. Mr. Vizcocho and Ms. Jimenez wanted to add ASD to the name. Ms. Heard called the question. The motion to add Advisory to the name did not carry.

Mr. Roberts said the name of the committee should reflect the purpose of the committee. Perhaps diversity would be a better word than minority. He suggested appointing a naming committee and wait until January to change the name.

Ms. Jimenez moved that the members consider a new name for the committee and consider the purpose of the committee. Ms. Logo seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Jimenez attended the Anchorage Neighborhood Housing Committee conference in Las Angeles. At the conference, it was decided to develop a Mountain View Community Youth Council. Members would serve on a community board with elders from each group.

Ms. Heard said Mr. Johnson should make it mandatory for the members of MECC to attend the Diversity Conference at West High School on Tuesday, September 28, 2004.

The meeting adjourned at 1:58 p.m.